



THE LIBRARY
OF
THE UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES

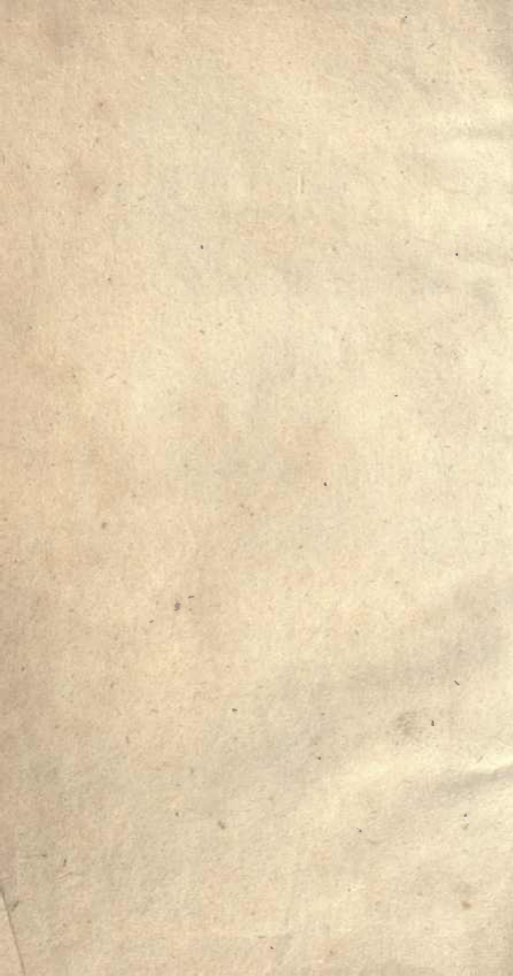
s/c has

b
17 279

Matthew Marshall

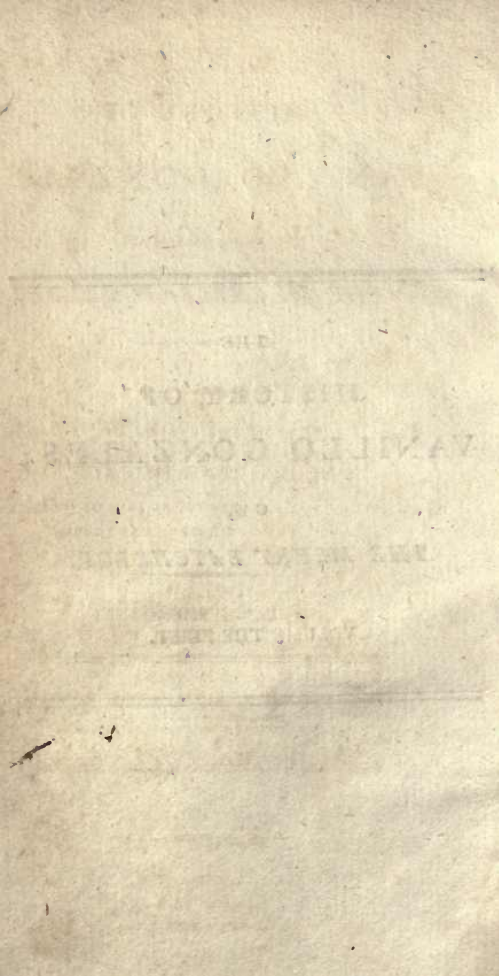
Tiverton





THE
HISTORY OF
VANILLO GONZALES;
OR,
THE MERRY BATCHELOR.

VOLUME THE FIRST.



THE
HISTORY OF
VANILLO GONZALES,

SURNAMED
THE MERRY BATCHELOR.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

FROM THE FRENCH OF
ALAIN-RENÉ LE SAGE,
AUTHOR OF THE CELEBRATED NOVELS OF "GIL BLAS"
AND "THE DEVIL UPON CRUTCHES."

VOLUME THE FIRST.

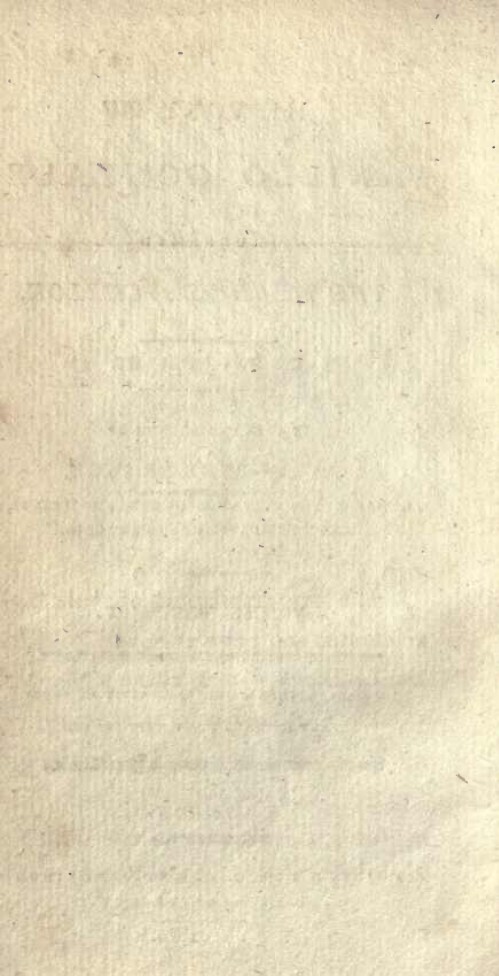
"MORES HOMINUM MULTORUM VIDIT ET URBS."

"HE MANY MEN AND MANY MANNERS SAW."

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR G. G. AND J. ROBINSON,
PATER-NOSTER ROW.

M DCC XCVII.



PQ

1997

H6E5

1797

v. 1

P R E F A C E.

THE two translations of those highly celebrated and popular novels, *Gil Blas*, and *Le Diable Boiteux*, have rendered the extraordinary merits of LE SAGE, as a novel writer, so well known and respected throughout Great Britain, that, in order to recommend the following History to the favourable attention of

P R E F A C E.

the Public, it is only necessary to announce, that the original from whence it is drawn is the undoubted production of that ingenious and entertaining Author. It was the last effort of his expiring genius. It is said, by the editor of his works, to be of Spanish extraction, “ *Tirée de l’Espagnol* ;” and there is certainly a novel of nearly the same title in that language ; but, except in one or two very trifling instances, they bear as little resemblance to each other as MACEDON, by FLUELLIN’S comparison, does to MONMOUTH.

“ IN the comparison between MACEDON and MONMOUTH,” says the ingenious Welchman, “ the situation, “ look you, is both alike : there is a
“ river

P R E F A C E.

“ river in MACEDON ; there is also
“ moreover a river at MONMOUTH ;
“ and there is salmon in both.”

SHAKESPEAR'S HENRY IV.

BETWEEN sixty and seventy years ago, a few chapters of this work was “ *done out of French ;*” and, in the preface of that publication it is said, that “ DON ESTEVANILLE GONZALES
“ wrote it himself, published it at
“ ANTWERP, and dedicated it to the
“ Duke of AMALTI, formerly General
“ of his Catholic Majesty's Forces in
“ the Netherlands, under whom he ap-
“ pears to have served.” The present, however, is certainly the first time it has appeared wholly in an English dress ; and if it be capable, as the

P R E F A C E.

translator flatters himself it is, of affording not only amusement, but useful instruction, it is extremely unimportant to the reader from what sources it was originally derived.

IT has diverted both the Spanish and the French nations, when they were in a better humour to be pleased with such productions than they seem to be in at present ; and, as the English people still preserve both their good humour and their good sense, it is reasonable to imagine, that it will not now be displeasing to them. It does not consist, like most of the novels of the present day, of a series of idle and unmeaning fictions, which serve only to mislead the judgment, and
corrupt

P R E F A C E.

corrupt the heart; but contains exact portraits of a variety of real characters, moral, political, and literary; a series of lively and pleasant adventures; and many keen but just censures upon the vices and follies of mankind, from whence the people of all nations may derive both pleasure and improvement.

THE biographer of this admirable writer has indeed observed, that this work, being the last he ever wrote, is made up of the “*shreds and patches*” of his imagination; and it must be confessed, that its wit and pleasantry is not so uninterruptedly supported as it is in its archetype, the perhaps inimitable GIL BLAS. But though it was the last written, it certainly is not the least

P R E F A C E.

meritorious of his works. Where is the folly of *pedantry* more humorously exposed, the compunctions of *avarice* more correctly depicted, or the pretensions of *empiricism* more happily ridiculed, than in the characters of THE OLD KNIGHT, the Licentiate SALABLANCA, Dr. ARRISCADOR, and his Coadjutor POTOSCHI? Can the female mind be more seriously warned against the dangers of *coquetry* than by the fate of Donna INNES; or the career of youthful vanity be more instructively checked than by the story of Don RAMIREZ DE PRADO? The hollow professions of common acquaintances are finely contrasted with the services of real friends in the register of Don HENRY OF BOLOGNA; and the punish-

ments

P R E F A C E.

ments which should always follow *political depravity*, with the tortures which generally accompany *disappointed ambition*, were perhaps never more truly exemplified than in the respective deaths of Don RODERIGO DE CALDERONA and the Duke of OSSUNA. In short, there is no character, amidst the great variety with which this work abounds, but furnishes to a reflecting mind a useful lesson and an entertaining story.

189

THE
CONTENTS
OF THE
FIRST VOLUME.

CHAPTER THE FIRST.

*THE birth and parentage of VANILLO; and
the kind of education he received.*

CHAPTER THE SECOND.

*VANILLO resolves to quit the profession of Sur-
gery; and proceeds to SALAMANCA to com-
plete his studies.*

CHAPTER

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER THE THIRD.

VANILLO, having reached SALAMANCA, places himself in a boarding-house; the master of which introduces him into the third class at the University.

CHAPTER THE FOURTH.

The progress VANILLO made in the study of the Belles Lettres; the cause which abated his fondness for study; and the course he took upon leaving the University.

CHAPTER THE FIFTH.

The kind of service VANILLO followed with Don CHRISTOVAL DE GAVARIA; and the indiscretion that caused him to be discharged.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER THE SIXTH.

The conduct of VANILLO after his dismissal from the service of Don CHRISTOVAL; and by what accident he entered into the service of the Licentiate SALABLANCA, Dean of the Cathedral of SALAMANCA. A description of the singular character of this Ecclesiastic.

CHAPTER THE EIGHTH.

VANILLO quits SALAMANCA and visits MADRID. The adventure he met with on the road; and the consequences it produced.

CHAPTER THE NINTH.

The consolation which VANILLO received on being released from prison, and the happier situation in which he found himself on his arrival at MADRID.

CHAPTER

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER THE TENTH.

VANILLO gains the friendship of Don HENRY OF BOLOGNA, who shews him a secret register which he kept in his study.

CHAPTER THE ELEVENTH.

VANILLO goes into the service of another master, and becomes a Page to the Duke of OSSUNA.

CHAPTER THE TWELFTH.

The Duke of OSSUNA is appointed Viceroy of SICILY; he departs from MADRID to embark at the port of BARCELONA, from whence he proceeds to GENOA, and from thence to NAPLES.

CHAPTER

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER THE THIRTEENTH.

The Duke of OSSUNA arrives in SICILY : his entry into PALERMO ; and the first proceedings of his administration.

CHAPTER THE FOURTEENTH.

The useful friend VANILLO met with ; and the fortuitous circumstances which rendered his services necessary to the Viceroy.

CHAPTER THE FIFTEENTH.

The particular conversation VANILLO had with the Duke ; and with what address he acted the part which THOMAS had assigned to him.

CHAPTER

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER THE SIXTEENTH.

The conversation which passed the ensuing morning between VANILLO and THOMAS. The ingenious sentence which was passed by the Duke of OSSUNA; and the consequence which that sentence produced upon the future fortunes of VANILLO.

CHAPTER THE SEVENTEENTH.

By what accident and with what design VANILLO became an Apothecary; and the happy effect which a quid pro quo produced in his fortunes.

CHAPTER THE EIGHTEENTH.

The tragical accident which followed this ludicrous adventure, and the extreme peril in which

CONTENTS.

which it involved both VANILLO and POTOSCHI.

CHAPTER THE NINETEENTH.

VANILLO, on his passage to LEGHORN, gains the friendship of a young Gentleman, who conducts him to PISA. The union in which they lived together; and the cause of their separation.

CHAPTER THE TWENTIETH.

VANILLO meets, three miles from PISA, with two Genoese who were going to FLORENCE. He joins company with them; and is induced by curiosity to visit a celebrated Necromancer.

CHAPTER

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER THE TWENTY-FIRST.

The arrival of VANILLO at FLORENCE; the employment that was offered to him; and the service he rendered Don CHRISTOVAL.

CHAPTER THE TWENTY-SECOND.

The conclusion of this adventure; the apprehension VANILLO entertained; and his departure from FLORENCE with Don CHRISTOVAL.

CHAPTER THE TWENTY-THIRD.

Don CHRISTOVAL and his suite embark at LEGHORN and sail to BARCELONA, from whence they proceed to SARAGOSSA. The marriage of Don CHRISTOVAL; and the consequence of this union.

CHAPTER

C O N T E N T S.

CHAPTER THE TWENTY-FOURTH.

Don CHRISTOVAL and VANILLO arrive at the Castle of RODENAS. The manner in which they were received by the Bishop of ALBARAZIN.

CHAPTER THE TWENTY-FIFTH.

VANILLO departs from the Castle of RODENAS, and returns to SARAGOSSA. He loses his way and sleeps in a Hermitage.

CHAPTER THE TWENTY-SIXTH.

The History of the Hermit.

CHAPTER

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER THE TWENTY-SEVENTH.

VANILLO takes his leave of THE HERMIT, and proceeds to SARAGOSSA ; from whence he returns to RODENAS with good news for Don CHRISTOVAL. The consequence of this news.

CHAPTER THE TWENTY-EIGHTH.

The conduct of VANILLO on his return to SALAMANCA ; the important service he rendered his friend VANEGAS ; and by what accident he received intelligence of Signiora DALFA and the jilt BERNARDINA.

CHAPTER THE TWENTY-NINTH.

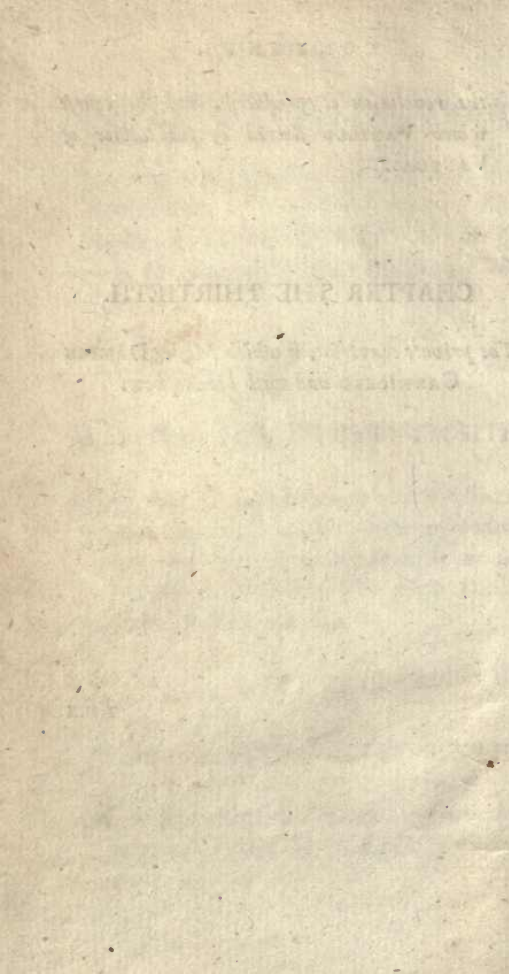
The melancholy accident which happened three months afterwards at the Episcopal Palace ;
the

CONTENTS.

the revolution it produced; and the course which VANILLO steered by the advice of VANEGAS.

CHAPTER THE THIRTIETH.

The private conversation which Master DAMIEN CARNICERO had with his Nephew.



THE
HISTORY
OF
VANILLO GONZALES;
OR,
THE MERRY BATCHELOR.

CHAPTER THE FIRST.

*The Birth and Parentage of VANILLO; and
the kind of Education he received.*

STATIUS opens his THEBAID with the rape of EUROPA, as the first cause of the foundation of THEBES. But do not be alarmed, my kind Reader: I will not be induced, by his example, to commence the story of my life by informing you who were my ancestors in the reign of

PELAGUS*. It is dangerous to dive too deeply into the history of one's relations; and I must acknowledge, that I should feel greatly embarrassed if I were obliged to speak even of my Grandfathers, of whom

* PELAGUS, the near relation of RODRIGO, a king of the Visigoths in SPAIN, was compelled to abandon his principality to the MOORS, and to conceal his person during the incursions of those barbarians. The holy edifice of NOTRE DAME at COVAGANDA was the place of his refuge, and a deep cave, surrounded with almost inaccessible rocks, the cause of his security. In this retreat he continued three years, contriving and bringing to maturity the means by which he meditated the expulsion of those victorious strangers, and at length issued from his obscurity full of hope and courage. Having collected his adherents, he drove the usurpers away; and the MOORS, being unable to subdue his high spirit and increasing power, entered into a negotiation with him for peace, and ultimately left him in the quiet enjoyment of a certain extent of territory, on the payment of a trifling tribute. But afterwards, in the year 716, conceiving the MOORS had insulted him, he marched against them with a large army; defeated them; conquered several provinces; and was, in a short time, proclaimed King of LEON and the ASTURIAS. He died in 737, with the reputation of a prince of high courage, exemplary piety, and great virtue. —TRANSLATOR.

I never

I never received any very clear or satisfactory information. With the characters of my Father and my Mother, however, I am well acquainted. They were engaged in professions of very opposite kinds; for while my Mother was employed in bringing people into the world, my Father was equally industrious in putting them out of it. In short, my Father, MR. STEPHEN GONZALES, was a venerable Doctor of Physic; and my Mother, like the mother of SOCRATES, was a Midwife.

MY Father having taken his degrees in the University of ALCALA, chose the City of MURCIA for the place of his residence, and the scene of his medical enterprizes; and he was so fortunate, as to become in a short time the most fashionable physician of the country; though there was nothing new in his modes of practice, for he followed, implicitly, the prescriptions of the Antients: and, therefore, whenever a patient fell a victim to his advice, an event which recurred but too frequently, he used to say, that it certainly was not his fault.

BEING one day called in to attend a difficult parturition, in which my Mother, then unmarried, assisted, he was so charmed with her youth, her beauty, and the dexterous manner in which, under his inspection, she exercised her obstetric talents, that he soon afterwards married her ; and I was the first fruit of this union. My Mother, in about three years afterwards, was delivered of a daughter, who was borne to the baptismal font by a neighbouring Gentleman and his female friend, and christened INESILLA ; a name since rendered extremely celebrated, as the Reader will perceive by the sequel of this History.

As the wives of physicians generally die before their husbands, my Father lost his professional associate before I had attained the ninth year of my age. Being placed as a boarder at one of the first schools in the city, where I was instructed in the rudiments of the Latin tongue, my progress in learning was so rapid, that I was, in a short time, qualified to enter into the third class at the University of SALAMANCA, where it was intended I should be sent, to compleat my studies.

studies. But at this important period of my life, my Father was seized with a violent disorder; and, treating his complaint according to the prescriptions of HIPPOCRATES, soon left my sister and myself orphans to bewail his loss.

DAMIEN CARNICERO, my Mother's brother, the most celebrated surgeon in MURCIA, and my Godfather, took us under his care. Conceiving that I was more likely to succeed in his profession than in that of my Father, who, accredited as he was for medical skill, had not died rich, he took me immediately from school, and bound me apprentice to himself. Like other apprentices, I was at first obliged to sweep the shop, to draw water from the well, to wash the shaving-cloths, and to heat the curling irons *. I had at this time just entered into the fourteenth year of my age, and being a thoughtless, giddy, gay, lively lad, I acquired the nick-name of MERRY PIN. At the expiration of two months I was permitted to handle, and in-

* The Reader will recollect that the business of *Barber*, and the profession of *Surgeon*, were formerly united under the appellation of BARBER-SURGEON.

structed how to use the razor. A poor beggar, who came to ask a charitable shaving at the shop, was the first subject on which I tried my skill in surgery; for as my Uncle and his assistant were both abroad, the operation of course devolved upon me. Desiring the poor mendicant to seat himself on a bench which was appropriated to these kind customers, I placed a dirty shop cloth beneath his chin, and lathered him so spiritedly about the nose, mouth, and eyes, that he grinned like an old monkey tormented by its keeper. But things took a very different turn when I began to use the razor; for the instrument, unfortunately for my patient, was so perverse, that at every stroke it might be said rather to carry away the flesh than to shave off the beard.

“ My little friend,” exclaimed the beggar, not being able any longer to endure the pain he felt, “ pray tell me whether you are shaving my beard or stripping my skin ?”

“ BOTH,” replied I; “ for your beard, my honest fellow, is so thick and stubborn, that it is impossible to take off the one without injuring the other.”

My

MY Uncle, who entered the shop just as I had finished my operation, could scarcely refrain from laughing at the ludicrous figure which the mangled face of the poor devil presented to his view; but, assuming a solemn countenance, he presented the sufferer with a few pieces of money, in order to alleviate the misfortune of having fallen under my hands.

THIS poor fellow most probably took great care to circulate intelligence of the extent of my skill in shaving to all his brethren; for from that hour no beggar has ever ventured to ask charity at the shop.

MY Uncle severely reprobated my conduct; and, to punish me for having acquitted myself so badly, interdicted me from using the razor until further orders. The scissors, however, I was still permitted to wield. One morning, a young student of the University came to the shop for the purpose of having his hair dressed. The task was assigned to me. This young gentleman was the son of an eminent woollen-draper; and my Uncle, to have a watchful eye upon my proceedings, chose to be present during

this operation, that I might be the more attentive to my duty. I succeeded tolerably well for some time, and cut his hair according to the fundamental rules of the art. In short, every thing went on in the happiest way imaginable, until the moment I was about to make a finishing stroke, when unfortunately forgetting that he had ears under his hair, I carried away at least half of one of them by a single clip of the scissars. The student uttered a dreadful scream; and my kind protector was no sooner informed of the catastrophe, than he bestowed upon me an equal and alternate quantity of maledictions and blows. Having applied these little correctives, which I well deserved, he dressed the wounds I had made, and accompanied the sufferer to his father's house, to whom he represented the injury as the accident of an awkward blockhead, whom he had left, by the severe punishment he had inflicted, half dead in the shop. The draper, sensible that no other compensation could be procured for this irreparable injury, was at length appeased by the story my Uncle told him, and granted me his pardon.

THE

THE maledictions and blows, however, which my Uncle had given me were not the only punishments I received for this offence. I was now interdicted not only from *shaving*, but from *cutting of hair*, and every other surgical operation whatever, under pain of being *strapped*; so that I was reduced exclusively to the exercise of my initiatory functions.

BUT my inevitable destiny counteracted the effect of these necessary restraints: One afternoon, while only my Uncle and myself were at home, a man between six and seven feet high, with a tremendous sword by his side, and of no very conciliating aspect, entered the shop. He had all the appearance of a *Valienté*; his hair was twisted; his hat fiercely cocked, with a large feather sprouting from one side of it; and his whiskers extended from the corners of his mouth to the middle of his temples: it was impossible to look at him without trembling! "Master DAMIEN," said he, addressing himself to my Uncle, "*turn up my whiskers.*" My Uncle accordingly or-

dered me to heat the irons; and, while they were in the fire, he desired the Gentleman to sit down in the arm chair, and adjusted one of his curls; but just as he was preparing to comb the other, which he had already let down for the purpose, a violent outcry resounded from the street. Running to the door to learn the occasion of it, my Uncle discovered a great concourse of people surrounding one of his most particular friends, who appeared preparing to fight. No longer master of his actions, he rushed instinctively to the assistance of his friend, leaving his customer in the condition I have described, with one side turned up and the other hanging straight down. The quarrel continued so long, that the Gentleman's patience was quite exhausted; and, turning himself toward me, "My young friend," said he, "are not you able to *finish* what your Master has begun?"

THE question touched my pride; and feeling that I could not, without disgracing myself, answer in the negative, I boldly replied, "Yes, Sir."

To afford him, therefore, unquestionable testimony that I possessed the talent of *finishing* a whisker, I immediately took the irons red-hot from the fire, and, passing them too closely under his nose, unfortunately singed his upper lip, and quite burned away the curl which I had so rashly undertaken to dress. He vociferated a horrid yell, which shook the house to its foundation; and, rising in all the madness of rage from his chair, "You son of a thousand bitches," exclaimed he, "do you take me for *St. Laurence*?" At the same time he drew his sword to run me through the body; but, before he could accomplish his design, I reached the door of the shop, and decamped with such rapidity that in less than a minute I found myself at the extremity of the city: so true is it, that *flying* and *running* are essentially different.

I sought refuge in the house of a Mercer who lived in the suburbs, and who was distantly related to the family by my mother's side; where, conceiving myself free from all danger, "Now," exclaimed I, "let fate do its worst in this affair."

THE Mercer, on my representing to him the disaster which had happened, burst into an immoderate fit of laughter; and laying hold of the curling irons, which I still held fast in my hand, observed a large lock of hair with an incipient curl at the end of it, so long and bristly, that it would have made an excellent bottle brush.

I CONTINUED in my asylum, where my Uncle, who immediately conjectured the place of my retreat, found me the ensuing day. He told us, that the enraged Gentleman, having exhausted his anger in a thousand horrid imprecations against me, was at length appeased by the apologies he made, and went away.

MY Uncle carried me home to his shop; severely lectured my misconduct; and seemed to despair of my attaining any great proficiency in the arts of surgery. The shame of ignorance, however, urged me to industry; and in a short time I acquired so complete a knowledge of the use of THE RAZOR and THE SCISSARS, that I could shave without flaying the skin, and dress without amputating the ears of his patients. I even attained.

attained some knowledge of the use of THE LANCET, although I must candidly confess, that in the first operation which I performed with this instrument, I disabled the sword-arm of a young foldier, whom I was intrusted to bleed: for, having heard that HIPPOCRATES, in his Treatise on *Pblebotomy*, recommends a large orifice, I made one which appeared rather like the wound of a lance than the incision of a lancet; and my patient, perhaps, was extremely fortunate that he escaped with only losing the use of his arm.

INDEED, I could not be any where so well situated to learn the art of Butchery, rather than that of adroit Surgery, as with my protector DAMIEN CARNICERO; and I was perfectly astonished, that any person should be so foolish as to place himself under his hands; for he was bigoted to the practice of the Antients, and followed their precepts with scrupulous precision and severity.

A FEW instances of his mode of practice in particular cases will completely exhibit his professional character. In venæsection, he made the incision transversely; and to close the orifice, either choaked the vein with

with a silk cord, or cauterised the wound with a red-hot iron. To relieve a patient from the pangs of the gout, he made punctures on the afflicted part, with needles put together in the form of a brush; and dissipated all scrophulous swellings by pricking the parts with the sharp points that grow on a thornback's tail. A nasal hæmorrhage he stopped by making a transverse incision from one part of the forehead to the other; or rather two incisions, in the shape of St. Andrew's Cross, all round the hairy part of the head. The most powerful causticks were constantly applied to the hip, loins, and thighs, to remove sciaticas; and he extracted the head-ach by placing red-hot irons on each side of the nostrils, temples, cheeks, and under the chin. The element of FIRE, in short, was his grand specific for the cure of every disorder; and the belly, legs, and thighs of dropical persons were fried or broiled without mercy. But, as it sometimes happened, whenever a refractory patient obstinately refused to try the effect of these salutary ordeals, he humanely accommodated his practice to the weakness of the patient;

patient ; and, under pretence of employing a more anodyne remedy than fire, he scalded the flesh with hot water or boiling oil ; unless they preferred being singed with ignited sulphur, spirits of wine, gunpowder, melted lead, or liquified glass.

THIS able Professor, anxious to instruct me in all the mysteries of the healing art, frequently carried me with him when he had any grand operation to perform ; but, instead of affording information to my mind, he tortured every feeling of my heart. I am sure that I should have endured, without complaining, all the pains that can afflict mankind, rather than have undergone the mildest of his remedies. He was, however, principal Surgeon to the Hospital of MURCIA, where I constantly attended him, to learn this art of broiling people into health.

LEAVING me, one morning, by the bedside of a man who had been broiled in various ways for the dropsey, the unhappy sufferer entreated me, with doleful cries, to afford him one drop of water, to assuage the raging thirst by which he was devoured. The heart of a Surgeon should be inexorable

to the cries of his patient ; but, unable to resist the affecting intreaty which was made to me upon this occasion, I presented to his lips a large jug half full of water, which he seized with avidity between his hands, and emptied in a moment. No sooner, however, had I afforded him this comfort, than he fainted away, and experienced, by an almost instantaneous death, a perfect relief from all his complaints.

GREAT as my regret was at having thus rashly listened to the voice of pity, it did not prevent me from profiting by the fatal event my kindness had occasioned : for, perceiving the strings of a purse just peeping from the fob of his breeches, which lay under the pillow on which his head reclined, I felt a strong inclination to take it away ; and my virtue was too weak to resist so powerful a temptation. I accordingly drew away the purse, which was not an empty one, from the pocket, and, hastily concealing it, marched out of the hospital, leaving the deceased, whose heir I had thus become, without having given him the trouble to make a will in my favour.

CHAPTER THE SECOND.

VANILLO resolves to quit the Profession of Surgery; and proceeds to SALAMANCA, to complete his Studies.

THE impatience I felt to discover the value of the property which had so unexpectedly devolved upon me, would not permit me to go far without satisfying my curiosity. Stopping, therefore, at the first convenient place for the purpose, I untied the strings of the purse, and discovered that it contained five-and-thirty beautiful doubloons, as new and shining as if they had been just coined; together with a small packet containing a ring set with brilliants, which, though ignorant of the quality of precious stones, I concluded to be of great value. What a treasure to a poor lad, who, until this moment, had never touched a piece of gold! I thought my fortune was made.

“ POSSESSED

“ POSSESSED of such riches,” said I to myself, “ I cannot do better than to proceed to SALAMANCA, and finish my studies by attending a course of philosophy. I shall make a princely figure at the University. It is certainly more congenial to my disposition to adopt the pursuits of literature, than to continue the vile profession in which I am at present engaged. Adieu, then, to surgery, both ancient and modern ! I will quit the City of MURCIA immediately.” In short, without even an inclination to say FAREWELL to my Uncle, who, without doubt, would have opposed my design, I instantly set off on the road to SALAMANCA.

WALKING closely along the banks of the SEGURA, I arrived at the Village of MOLINA; where, finding myself fatigued, I determined to pass the night, having already travelled twelve miles, which I thought a tolerable distance for the first day’s journey. The master of the inn in which I intended to lodge, perceiving a foot traveller without whiskers, no sword by his side, and but rather meanly habited, con-

cluded

cluded from these appearances that I did not abound in money; addressing me in consequence with great familiarity, "Young Gentleman," said he, "if I may judge by your appearance, you are not overloaded with silver, and will therefore, perhaps, have no objection to regale yourself with a nice bit of bread and a moderate quantity of cheese for your supper to-night."

GREATLY mortified by this scornful and insulting address, "Sir," replied I, with asperity, "take notice that although I may not be overburthened with SILVER, I have plenty of GOLD;" and immediately drawing the purse from my pocket, I exhibited to him a handful of the doubloons.

SURPRIZE and astonishment seized the countenance of the host at this sight: and taking one of them in his hand to examine if it was real, "Ah! you young rogue," said he, putting his finger to the side of his nose, "you have been robbing a tender-hearted father. You have an inclination to travel, and in order to insure
" your-

“yourself a kind reception on the road,
“have laid violent hands on the good
“man’s treasures.”

“You are deceived,” returned I, “your
“conjecture is without foundation, for I
“have neither Father nor Mother alive.
“These double pistoles were given to me
“by Uncles and Aunts, who raised a contri-
“bution among themselves to enable me to
“proceed to SALAMANCA, to finish the
“studies I commenced at MURCIA, the
“place of my nativity.”

“Your friends, then,” replied the host,
“are very imprudent to send you alone
“with so much gold about you, upon the
“mules of St. FRANCIS, to the distance
“of seventy-two miles from your own pro-
“vince. If you will follow my advice,”
added he, “you will continue your route
“to-morrow morning along the banks of
“the river until you arrive at CRUZ DE
“CARAVACA, where you may bargain with
“a muleteer to conduct you to CIVIDAD-
“REAL, from whence you may reach
“SALAMANCA by the same kind of con-
“veyance in five or six days.”

. I THANKED

I THANKED my host for the friendly information he had afforded me; and, promising to follow his advice, asked what he could let me have for supper.

“ I HAVE really nothing in the house,” replied he, “ but bread and cheese; there is, however, a rich farmer in the neighbourhood who breeds poultry for the purpose of supplying the markets at CARTHAGENA; I will send to him and purchase a couple of chickens, with which I can make you a delicious fricassé; and I promise you not only excellent bread, but some of the finest wine in all Spain.”

“ You promise well,” answered I.

“ AND I will keep my word,” said he. “ I talk, I know, like most of my fraternity, but I am determined to make you confess that there is at least one host in SPAIN, who treats his customers with civility and good cheer.”

AND I acknowledge that I had no reason to be discontented either with his fare or his conversation. He possessed a lively fancy; and, contrary to the generality of Spanish innkeepers, was a very honest man; at least he gave me great reason to think so, from
the

the conversation I had with him during supper; for placing himself at the table to assist me in eating the fricasseed chickens, he represented to me with great gaiety and good-humour the dangers to which I should be exposed at SALAMANCA, and, without assuming the austerity of a moral preceptor, exhorted me carefully to avoid them.

THE ensuing morning, when I took my leave of him, he wished me every possible prosperity; and addressing me with great gravity, “Young Gentleman,” said he, “I am inclined, in order to enable you
“to guard against the dangers to which
“your youth is likely to expose you, to
“make you a present;” and he immediately presented me with a little box, containing a thread paper and needles.

SURPRIZED at so whimsical a gift, I asked him his reasons for making me such a present.

“I PRESENT them to you,” replied he, “because there are three occasions upon
“which you may find a needle and thread
“particularly serviceable.

“FIRST,

“FIRST, Sew up your mouth whenever you may be tempted to speak *mal-à-propos*.

“SECONDLY, Sew up your purse whenever your generous feelings are likely to lead you into an idle expence.

“AND as for THE THIRD sewing,” added he, “I shall leave that to your own reflection, upon experience, to find out.”

BURSTING into a violent fit of laughter at this ludicrous conceit, I complied with his request; and, accepting the box, promised to preserve it during my life as a sacred testimony of his friendship and judicious counsel.

I THEN continued my journey, keeping the banks of the river until the close of the day, when I arrived at CRUZ DE CARAVACA, where I found a muleteer, who, for a certain sum, agreed to carry me not only to CIVIDAD-REAL, but even to the city of SALAMANCA.

CHAP-

CHAPTER THE THIRD.

VANILLO, *having reached SALAMANCA, places himself in a Boarding-house, the Master of which introduces him into the third Class at the University.*

ON my arrival at SALAMANCA, a place I had frequently wished with much ardour to see, I went into the vicinity of the University, and addressing myself to an old half-blind Librarian, who was squinting for customers at the door of his shop, I requested him to direct me to a good tutor.

“ If you wish,” said he, “ for a tutor
 “ who is not only learned but who also
 “ keeps an excellent table, I recommend
 “ you to DOCTOR CANIZARES ; a man
 “ you will be pleased with. He lives
 “ there,” pointing with his finger to a
 house at a short distance : “ You will here-
 “ after thank me for directing you to a man
 “ who lives so hospitably, that his worst
 “ dinners are better even than the feasts of
 “ other tutors.”

RELYING

RELYING implicitly upon the recommendation of the old Librarian, I went accordingly to the Doctor's house, who, conceiving that I intended to increase the number of his inmates, received me with every demonstration of civility and respect.

THE person of the *Doctor* was extremely thin and tall, his skin dry and withered, his beard black, his eyes sunk into their sockets, and his cheeks hollow. "It is strange," thought I, "that a man the hospitality of whose board is so celebrated, should appear so lank and meagre; but perhaps it may be constitutional; for I remembered to have heard my uncle say, that bodies, though composed entirely of skin and bone, have sometimes such keen appetites, that if the devil should appear to them in the shape of victuals, they would swallow him horns and all."

DOCTOR CANIZARES enquired my name, the situation of my family, the place from whence I came, and my views in visiting SALAMANCA.

I ANSWERED his questions in the way that seemed most advantageous to my interests;

and, after further conversation, in which he assured me that I should not repent of having selected his house for my residence, he conducted me to a small apartment in the attic story, containing no other furniture than a chest of drawers, two chairs, a table, and a truckle-bed.

“THIS, young gentleman,” said he, “is your apartment, where you may deposit your clothes whenever you please.”

“I HAVE no clothes,” replied I, “but thank God I have that which will purchase whatever I may want; and, to make your mind perfectly easy on my account, I am willing to pay you the first quarter in advance.”

THE DOCTOR caught with eagerness at this proposal; and, on his telling me that his terms were forty pistoles a-year, I took twenty doubloons from my purse, which I exhibited so as to attract his notice, and gave him five of them for my first quarter's board and lodging. After having carefully examined each of them one by one, he assured me that no pains on his part should be spared to render me the most learned mem-
ber

ber of THE UNIVERSITY; inquired, with seeming anxiety, what progress I had made in my studies; and, interrogating me upon subjects of moral philosophy and the sciences, declared that I was well qualified to enter into *the third class*. This flattering appreciation of my abilities was followed by a promise that he would undertake to procure my reception into the College without any examination, as the Regent of that form was his intimate friend: but while he was proceeding to recommend the study of the *belles lettres*, the bell summoned us to supper. We accordingly descended into a parlour, where, in a kind of refectory, stood a long and narrow table, at which were placed ten or twelve students, all of whom were about my own age, except two, who might perhaps have reached their twentieth year.

HAVING saluted the company on entering the room, and taken my seat at the table, my attention was engaged by the similarity of the messes which covered it. Before each student were placed morsels of bread about three ounces in weight, and two plates, in one of

which were two onions, roasted on the cinders, and in the other a handful of nuts. The apparent frugality of the repast, which did not in any degree correspond with the praises the Librarian had bestowed on the liberality of the Doctor, mortified me. Conjecturing, however, that it might be the evening of a fast, I consoled myself with the hope of better fare on the succeeding days. The same quantity of bread, onions, nuts, and a pint mug of wine, so abundantly diluted that I should have preferred the pure water to such a tasteless mixture, were also placed before me. But a keen stomach reconciles every species of food. I devoured my bread and onions, cracked my nuts, and drank my mixture with an avidity, which, if the Doctor observed me, must have convinced him that I was not a young man of a very squeamish appetite. My companions did equal honour to their respective portions; and every thing on the table was so entirely eaten, cracked, and made an end of, that even a famished sparrow could not have picked up a single crumb.

THE

THE repast being finished, we rose from table to enjoy, in an open court adjoining to the room, the fineness of the evening. I soon made myself acquainted with my fellow-students, particularly with the eldest of them, who, after some conversation, drew me aside, and asked me who it was that had been so much my enemy as to advise me to board and lodge with DOCTOR CANIZARES. I told him it was an old blear-eyed Librarian who lived in the neighbourhood.

“OH the malicious wretch!” exclaimed he, bursting into a fit of laughter, “the old fellow was only joking with you; for he, as well as the whole neighbourhood, well knows we are so scantily fed, that our temperance and frugality is the common subject of laughter.”

“WHY,” replied I, “our supper convinced me that I was not in a very hospitable house, and I assure you I would change my situation to-morrow, if I had not foolishly paid the old rogue a quarter in advance.”

“I SHOULD have left the house long before now,” replied the student, “if the
c 3 “reason

“ reason I have for staying was not much
“ stronger than my inclination to depart.”

“ WHY, what motive can you possibly
“ have,” said I, “ stronger than hunger ?”

“ I WILL inform you,” replied the student. “ The learning of DOCTOR CANIZARES is much greater than even his avarice. He possesses a complete knowledge of the Greek and Roman authors, and I assure you, that, although he feeds the body upon slender diet, he is capable of furnishing the mind with a rich variety of curious and useful information ; and therefore it is that I content myself with his nuts and his onions.”

“ You afford me infinite consolation,” exclaimed I. “ I am, like you, disposed to endure the pangs of an empty stomach for the sake of possessing a well-stored mind.”

WHILE I was engaged in this kind of conversation with my fellow-student, whose name was DON RAMIREZ DE PRADO, the bell summoned us to bed ; and we soon afterwards parted with reciprocal assurances of friendship and esteem.

ON

On entering my chamber, I threw myself upon a bed harder than marble, the sheets of which were made of small rough towels, so coarsely sewed together, that the seams were more annoying than the texture of the cloth. In defiance, however, of these inconveniences, I slept like a dormouse until nine o'clock the next morning.

WHILE I was dressing, the Doctor entered the room, followed by a person whom he introduced to me as the family Taylor usually employed by the young Gentlemen in his house: "He waits on you," continued he, "with an offer of his services; he is a skilful workman, and so conscientious in the way of business, that he never takes an inch of cloth too much."

Not being very well equipped, I bargained with him for some clothes; and, on my paying him six double pistoles, he agreed to furnish me with a complete suit in two days.

THE Taylor had scarcely left me before the bell announced that the hour of dinner approached; and I descended soon after-

wards into the apartment where we had supped the preceding evening. My fellow-students also assembled, and we took our respective seats at the table. Although I had prepared my mind to expect a very frugal repast, the dinner now served up far surpassed my expectation. The first course regaled us with soup like that which they usually give to hounds for the purpose of preserving their scent: crusts of mouldy bread floated on its surface, but real *bouillè* was difficult to be seen. Before every student stood a porringer, from which he crammed the stomach with a degree of appetite that excited my admiration; and, although I had not hitherto tasted much adversity, I tasted and sipped my soup until I had emptied the porringer.

My stomach was so satisfied by this curious mess of *soup santé*, that I could not swallow a morsel of our second course; which consisted of a small dish of fricasseed goats trotters, in which, I fancy, the cook had not forgot the horns, so much did it seem to grate between the teeth. The other students however, whose appetites were whetted by
a con-

a constant famine, fell upon the fricassée with so much eagerness, that it vanished in the twinkling of an eye.

THIS repast, which, without danger of contradiction, I may say was not the worst I saw at DOCTOR CANIZARES's, being finished, I went into the city to purchase such linen, books, and other necessaries, as were suitable to a student of the third class; and when all my purchases were made, there remained, alas! no more than twenty doubloons in my pocket. "Courage, VANILLO," said I aloud to myself, "your affairs, young man, seem still in a good condition. Twenty double pistoles is a little fortune; and when they are exhausted, I have a further resource in a diamond ring; for a resource it certainly is: but, stop my friend! Have you any knowledge of the value of precious stones? You know very well that you have not. Confess, then, what a fool you would find yourself if this diamond, upon which you rely so much, should prove a counterfeit."

THE torment which this last reflection occasioned was intolerable, and going immediately into the Great Square, where the most opulent Merchants reside, I entered the shop of a Jeweller, and producing the ring, requested he would conscientiously inform me what it was worth. The Jeweller, after a very attentive examination, valued it at a hundred pistoles, and asked me if I was inclined to dispose of it. I told him that I had no such intention at present, but that in all probability it would soon find its way to market.

“WELL,” said he, “whenever you chuse to part with it, bring it to me, and I will give you its full value.”

CONSIDERING myself another CRÆSUS, I left the shop, and reached home with a mind occupied by the most agreeable reflections.

“SIGNIOR GONZALES,” said THE DOCTOR to me as I entered the room, “I have spoken to the Professor; and, upon certain proofs which I have given him of your capacity, he will receive you into the third Class without the usual examination.”

“nation. You may take your seat in the
“College whenever you please.”

THIS I determined to do as soon as I received my new cloaths; and accordingly, a few days afterwards, DOCTOR CANIZARES taking me in his hand to the University, conducted me to the apartment of the Licentiate GUTTIEREZ HOSTIGADOR, the Regent of the third Class, who received us us with great pomp and gravity.

I NEVER saw the countenance of a pedant in which presumption was more strongly marked than in that of this Licentiate.

“I BEG leave,” said the Doctor, “to
“introduce to you a young Gentleman
“who wishes to augment the number of
“your scholars.”

THE Licentiate placing his hand upon my head, said, “Sir, I have only a few
“words to address to you. If you possess
“talents and are fond of study, we shall
“be contented with each other; but if you
“are indolent or licentious, you will not
“find favour in my sight.”

I ASSURED THE REGENT that I would do every thing in my power to afford him satisfaction.

“ THEN,” said he, “ you may take your seat on the form this morning. But let me recommend you not to suffer a syllable of what I shall say to be lost ; for you will hear nothing from me but what is worthy of your attention.”

WE took our leave of the Licentiate ; DOCTOR CANIZARES retiring to his own home, and I among the scholars who were walking in the area of the College which is appropriated to the third Class. Being soon afterwards summoned to the Hall, I seated myself, as a new-comer, on the lowest form ; and the better to ingratiate myself with the Regent, prepared to listen to him with the attention he had recommended. A profound silence prevailed throughout the room the moment he appeared ; and I shall never forget the arrogance with which he seated himself in the Professor’s chair.

THE Great Mogul, when seated on his throne, has less ostentation than was exhibited

bited on this occasion by this Pedagogue, on whom I kept my eyes invariably fixed. The countenance of every scholar discovered the fearful reverence in which he was held; but from the members of the third Class he seemed to expect the humblest attention.

WHEN any of his disciples passed him in the purlieus of the College, and, inadvertently or otherwise, neglected the common salutation, he vociferated, in the most imperious tone, "Hey, Sir! where is your hat?" And if the offender did not immediately answer so as to satisfy his vanity, he was ordered into the custody of *the Liētors*, that is to say, *the Ussers*, by whom he was constantly followed, who were ordered to seize the contumacious scholar, and drag him to the *rostrum*, where he was soon convinced that his breeches had but one button.

CHAPTER THE FOURTH.

The Progress VANILLO made in the Study of the Belles Lettres ; the Cause which abated his Fondness for Study ; and the Course he took upon leaving the University.

NOTWITHSTANDING the severity of the Professor, I studied under his instructions for six months, and became the most celebrated of his pupils. My application indeed, during this period, was so intense, that I could not fail of acquiring considerable knowledge. The regular performance of College exercises was not sufficient to satisfy my assiduity, but I studied, at my leisure hours, those excellent authors which DOCTOR CANIZARES recommended to my attention, and which his learned and critical commentaries on their texts enabled me the better to understand ; and by these means profited at least as much by the instructions I received at home, as by those I received at College.

THE pursuits of learning, however, did not prevent me from sometimes strolling along the banks of the TORMES, which, by its agreeable and romantic windings, contributes to increase the beauty of the rural scenery which surrounds SALAMANCA. DON RAMIREZ DE PRADO, the eldest student of our house, was generally my companion in these excursions. He had indeed a powerful reason for preferring my company to that of other students; for, knowing that I had money, he did me the favour to become a borrower, and to continue my debtor to this day: the refreshments also of these walks were always enjoyed at my expence.

DON RAMIREZ DE PRADO, although a young collegian, had acquired some knowledge of the world; and generally passed his vacations, and sometimes his class days, at certain houses in the city, where, in the company of fashionable females, he relaxed the severities of study. Among other females, he had formed an acquaintance with a SEGNIORA DALFA, the widow of a Doctor of Laws, about thirty-five years of age, of an agreeable person and very lively

lively disposition ; who to her own charms, which were quite sufficient to attract a number of admirers, added those of a niece of her husband's, named BERNARDINA ; a young female whom no eye could behold without endangering the safety of the heart.

THIS experienced student offered one afternoon to introduce me to his female friends, assuring me that nothing so much contributed to polish the manners of a young man, as the company of rational and elegant women. I was easily persuaded by a companion with whom I lived in the closest friendship, and we accordingly went together to the house of SEGNIORA DALFA. The reception we met with convinced me that my conductor was upon very close and intimate terms with the family. The ladies almost overwhelmed me with civilities because I was his friend, or rather, because it had been previously settled amongst themselves, that this was the most likely means to seduce me. An agreeable conversation of three hours, in which the wit and spirit of the widow shone with great brilliancy, in a thousand lively and diverting sallies, formed the entertainment

entertainment of the evening ; but, although the niece spoke very seldom, she occasionally glanced at me a pair of fine bright eyes, which inspired me with more delight than all the brilliant fallies of her aunt. BERNARDINA, who was exactly my own age, and, without exaggeration, a beautiful girl, created the warmest emotions in my breast :— in short, without thinking of love, I became deeply enamoured with her charms.

It was not difficult for DON RAMIREZ, on our return, to conjecture the sentiments which occupied my mind. “SIGNIOR GONZALES,” said he, as we were walking home, “what think you of my fair friends?” “Which are you for, the widow or the niece?” “For the niece,” replied I, “although I admit that her aunt is extremely amiable.” “Your candour upon this occasion,” answered DON RAMIREZ, “calls for an open avowal on my part. Know then that I adore SEGNIORA DALFA, and as we are not rivals, both of us may, without restraint, pursue our respective inclinations.”

STUDY,

STUDY, perhaps, would in a short time have obliterated all recollection of BERNARDINA; but four days had scarcely elapsed before DON RAMIREZ thus addressed me: “SIGNORE GONZALES, I have great news to communicate to you. You have charmed the lovely BERNARDINA. She has disclosed the secret of her affection to her aunt, who has confidentially imparted it to me; and the extraordinary friendship I feel for you induces me to announce it to you, to enable you to profit by the discovery I have made. If you are happy enough, as I have no doubt you will be, to fix her affection so firmly as to induce her to marry you, you may live at your ease the remainder of your days; for she will be the sole heiress of a maternal uncle, whose fortune is immense, and who has only two children extremely sickly and infirm. Pay your addresses to her, therefore, with the warmest assiduity. To-morrow I will again introduce you into her company. All I regret,” added he, “is, that I have not a penny in my pocket; for, if I had money, I would prepare upon this
“occasion

“ occasion a little elegant collation for them :
“ women are extremely fond of those who
“ pay them the tributè of expence, and
“ there are some lovers so sensible of it, that
“ they frequently by such means only en-
“ sure their success.”

HASTILY interrupting my companion,
“ Well, my friend,” exclaimed I, “ the
“ money that may be necessary is ready.
“ I have yet some double pistoles re-
“ maining, which do not belong to any
“ man alive”—and true it was that their
real owner was dead.—I accordingly drew
from my purse two doubloons, which I pre-
sented to DON RAMIREZ, asking him if that
sum would be sufficient. “ Without doubt,”
replied he, “ we must proceed economical-
“ ly. I perceive, my young friend, that
“ you are lavish of your money. I must
“ check this generous disposition. Leave
“ the management of these matters to me. I
“ will undertake to provide a handsome co-
“ llation which shall cost you very little mo-
“ ney, and still do you great honour.”

I OUGHT upon this occasion to have avail-
ed myself of the needle and thread with
which my friendly Host at MOLINA had
presented

presented me ; but so far was I from conceiving that I was employing my doubloons improvidently, that I felt myself much obliged to my companion for having suggested this pleasurable party.

THE ensuing day I accompanied DON RAMIREZ a second time to the mansion of SEGNIORA DALFA, who received us with accumulated tokens of politeness. When the refreshments which DON RAMIREZ had prepared, consisting of a few baskets of fruit, and a variety of liqueurs, some iced, and others in their common state, were produced, the ladies affected great surprize. “ Young gentleman,” said SEGNIORA DALFA, with seeming uneasiness, “ you will oblige me to
“ find fault with you for putting yourself to
“ this expence : you are young, and cannot
“ possess more money than your necessary dis-
“ bursements require ; you should therefore
“ manage it prudently.”

“ MADAM,” replied my friend, “ it is not
“ I who entertains you ; it is SIGNIOR GON-
“ ZALES, who, thank heaven, is sufficiently
“ rich to afford a collation of this kind every
“ day without injuring his circumstances. He
“ has

“has neither father nor mother living; is
 “complete master of his actions, in posses-
 “sion of a good fortune, and enjoys that
 “situation in which every young man of
 “family and spirit would wish to live.”

ON my part, I assured the ladies that the refreshments produced were of such trifling value as to be scarcely worthy of their attention. Upon this observation DON RAMIREZ took occasion to pass encomiums upon my generosity, in terms so extravagant, that if I had not been, as I certainly was, totally devoid of experience, I must have perceived that my friend was privately leagued with these female Circes, and that their only design was to ruin me: an event which happened very soon afterwards; for, becoming every day more and more in love with BERNARDINA, I made her so many presents, and gave her aunt so many collations, that my doubloons disappeared, and my diamond ring found its way to the show-glass of the jeweller.

I HAD very little money remaining when the irregularity of my conduct attracted the notice of DOCTOR CANIZARES, who, fearful that I might disable myself from paying him

him at the expiration of the current quarter, insisted on having his money immediately, although it wanted several days of being due.—My pride being piqued by his suspicions of my misconduct, although they were extremely just, I instantly paid him, and, without waiting until my time expired, immediately quitted his house to take my abode elsewhere.

I RETIRED to a furnished lodging, which I hired in the city, at a considerable distance from the University; and, perceiving that I had now only four pistoles remaining out of all the wealth I once possessed, resolutely determined to abandon those studies and gallantries which I had no longer the ability to continue.

POVERTY soon healed the wounds of love, which had so injuriously interrupted the progress of my studies, and I resolved never more to behold the treacherous RAMIREZ, or the female adventurers, who had conspired with him to purloin my property. In this renunciation I felt a sort of consolation for the loss of my money, as if, in not having them as witnesses of my misery, I was in any degree less miserable.

ONE morning, as I was coming out of the church of St. Stephen, my tutelary saint, a servant in a very splendid livery saluted me. Upon an attentive perusal of his face, I recollected him as a class-fellow at College. "How, MANSANO!" exclaimed I, "have you also played truant from the University? You have had perhaps some unlucky disagreement with the Licentiate HOSTIGADOR?" "Evenso," replied MANSANO. "The tyranny of that pedant has driven me from the seat of learning. I was induced, for the first time, to absent myself from College, and although I publicly asked pardon before the whole class for my fault, the inflexible tyrant, to gratify the vindictive disposition of his mind, issued an order of castigation. Upon my resisting his authority, he sent his myrmidons to seize me by force; but, although I closed in with them, my courage could do little more in the unequal contest, than to give them marks of my prowess upon the face and shins, which they afterwards repaid by lashes on my back with usurious interest. Since that day," continued MAN-

SANO, " I have never entered the College ;
" but, to relieve my poor parents from the
" burthen of maintaining me, have accepted
" a place in the household of the Bishop of
" SALAMANCA, a prelate of extraordinary
" merit, and large revenues, who sup-
" ports the dignity of his see with the libe-
" rality of a Prince. The hospitality of his
" table, to which company of the first cha-
" racter and distinction daily resort, is un-
" bounded ; a single meal would support an
" hospital for three days ; and the condi-
" tion of his domestics, who scarcely do any
" thing but drink, eat, play, and sleep, is
" truly happy ; for, after having experien-
" ced a pleasing servitude of nine or ten
" years, a handsome provision is made for
" them for the remainder of their lives."

I CONGRATULATED MANSANO on his good fortune, and wished him a good morning. Meditating profoundly on the nature of his employment, and the felicity which he had so impressively described, I regretted that I had not requested his interest to introduce me to the service of so kind a master. But, upon recollection, the voice

voice of ambition whispered in my ear; that the son of a graduated physician ought to entertain more elevated notions, a conflict between those common associates, pride and poverty, succeeded; but, at length, the impending indigence which threatened me, determined my choice. I accordingly hastened, the ensuing morning, to the episcopal palace, and enquiring for MANSANO, informed him of the motive of my visit. "Every department in the Bishop's service," said he, "is at present filled; but his nephew, DON CHRISTOVAL DE GAVIRIA, who resides in the palace, is, I know, in want of a valet; and, if you please, I will speak in your behalf to the Major-domo, who, I think, on my recommendation, will immediately place you in the service of the young Lord. Call on me again to-morrow, and I will then inform you whether you may expect this promotion, which will be extremely advantageous; for DON CHRISTOVAL is the most generous young man existing; and it will, I assure you, contribute greatly to my happiness to have the man my companion in

VOL. I, D " the

“ the palace who was my comrade at the College.”

ALTHOUGH it was now a long time since I had seen SIGNIORA DALFA and her niece, yet I had profited so much by their examples, that I was not sparing in expressions of civility to MANSANO. Anxious for the event of this negociation, as the object of it was the very situation I wished to obtain, I returned the ensuing day to the palace; and my friend had conducted this business with so much ability, that I found the Major-domo not only prepossessed in my favour; but eager to introduce me to DON CHRISTOVAL, who immediately received me into his service.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER THE FIFTH.

The Kind of Service which VANILLO followed with DON CHRISTOVAL DE GAVIRIA, and the Indiscretion that caused him to be discharged.

BEHOLD me, after having served two years as an apprentice to a surgeon, and attended ten months as a Student in the University, now acting as Valet to DON CHRISTOVAL DE GAVIRIA!

THIS young nobleman, who had just attained the twenty-fifth year of his age, possessed so elegant a person, a countenance so open, and such very conciliating manners, that I felt an immediate attachment to him: but perhaps the high degree of satisfaction which he expressed on the first sight of me, contributed rather more than his person and manners to inspire me with favourable sentiments of his character.

THE Bishop, who enjoyed the satisfaction of having educated him himself,

was extremely fond of his nephew, who having been recently released from the restraints of his Governor was now entirely free; and at liberty to follow his inclinations, without rendering an account of his conduct to any person. This emancipation from all responsibility or restraint exactly suited DON CHRISTOVAL's disposition; and he made good use of the inestimable privilege; for the fair sex being the objects of his fondest pursuits, he seized, with an ardent inclination, every opportunity which raised a hope of gallantry or intrigue. An old, grave, religious valet de chambre and myself composed his household establishment; but as I appeared the better qualified to serve him as an agent in his amorous pursuits, the honour of THE CADUCEUS was bestowed upon me. He certainly required a more experienced ferret than I was to hunt out beauties for him; but, as he chose me for his confidant, he without doubt concluded that I should soon be as fit as any other for the service. "VANILLO," said he to me one day, "I feel an affection for you, and as an irre-
fragable

“fragable proof of it, listen to me while I
“disclose to you the secrets of my heart.”
I bowed with profound humility, to testify
how sensibly I felt the honour he conferred
on me. “Know,” continued he, “that
“by the mediation of one of those old wo-
“men who go about counting THE ROSARY
“in order the more commodiously to offer at
“the shrine of beauty the homages of Love,
“I have formed an acquaintance with the most
“amiable woman in SALAMANCA; and al-
“though I have only seen her once, I burn
“with impatience to renew my visits. Go,”
said he, putting a paper into my hand, “go,
“find out the old procuress; her name is
“LA PEPITA; here is her address; tell
“her from me that I languish in the expec-
“tation of a second interview with the
“charming idol to whom she introduced
“me.” This last expression convinced me
that DON CHRISTOVAL was far gone in love,
and, to assimilate my zeal to the fervency of his
feelings, I flew with rapidity to the dwelling
of LA PEPITA, whom I found at her retreat in
a small obscure court close adjoining to the
convent of THE CORDELIERS. To form a true
idea

idea of this antiquated forcerefs, figure to your mind an ugly hag of seventy-two years of age, about three feet six inches high, entire skin and bone, with eyes redder than fire, and a mouth the lower lip of which protruded so as entirely to conceal its companion, and you will form a faint portrait of LA PEPITA. She received me in a room on the ground floor, which, though dark and dirty, was, no doubt, frequently the asylum of Love and Beauty. Having opened my commission, the accommodating old creature addressed me in these words: "My young friend, "you may assure DON CHRISTOVAL that "he may see the lady he loves at this "house to-night, although this cannot be "accomplished without great difficulty, as "she will be obliged to escape from the "observation of a brother who superintends her conduct, and whose vigilance it "will not be an easy matter to elude." "These are obstacles which my master "has sagaciously foreseen," replied I; "here "is something from him that will enable "you to remove them," putting a purse containing fifty pistoles into her hand. I "would

“ would reject this money with disdain,” replied the hag; “ if I thought your master
“ had any dishonourable views ; but I am satisfied he has too much virtue to entertain any base designs ; and from the good
“ opinion I entertain of his character, I will do every thing in my power to serve
“ him. To-morrow I will promise him a certain interview with the object of his affection. Go, acquaint him with this
“ information, and leave me to count the rosary which your interruption prevented
“ me from finishing. Adieu, my chicken,” added she, patting me under the chin with her dry hand, “ you appear a genteel young
“ man, and by ST. AGNES, if I were only
“ in my Teens, I should wish to have you
“ for my husband.”

I HAD no sooner disclosed the success of my embassy, than DON CHRISTOVAL, with a view no doubt to silence the voice of virtue in those delicate duties which he was likely to impose on me, presented me with a dozen pistoles, assuring me, at the same time, that a proper attention to his affairs should never injure my own ; and on this

assurance I firmly resolved, whatever might be the part I should afterwards be appointed to perform, always to prefer the character of **CONFIDANT** to that of **LOVER**, since **RUIN** would in all probability be the consequence of the one, and **RICHEs** of the other.

THE hours passed tediously away, in the mind of **DON CHRISTOVAL**, until the time of assignation arrived, when under the friendly covert of the night we glided unseen into the habitation of **LA PEPITA**. The heroine of the scene, who was already there, I had no opportunity of seeing; for instead of being allowed to follow **DON CHRISTOVAL** into the parlour where she was waiting, I was detained by the old woman in an adjoining chamber; but the two rooms being only separated by a thin wainscot partition, I was enabled to overhear a great part of the conversation, which, as will be easily imagined, afforded me for some time high entertainment. But how shall I describe my astonishment when I thought I recollected the voice of the fair female, and, upon a more attentive ear, no longer doubted that it was the deceitful **BERNARDINA**! I was quite confounded, and felt my anger rising to
a height,

a height, which reason, at any other time, would not have so easily subdued. "But let the Coquette," said I to myself, "affect to love DON CHRISTOVAL and a thousand other men, what is it to me? I have abandoned her; and her behaviour ought to be no longer interesting to my heart." I could not, however, avoid feeling the keenest mortification on reflecting that a lady who had always behaved towards me with modesty and reserve, should at the same time be capable of acting in violation of all chastity; it mortified my pride by the reflection it cast on my discernment; and in the moment of spleen and resentment I determined she should see and recollect me before we left the house; for I fancied the shame and confusion she would feel on discovering, that I was privy to the wantonness and duplicity of her conduct, would afford me ample revenge: but, alas! I flattered myself with false hopes; for when I presented myself to her observation, she was so far from being disconcerted by my presence, that she impudently stared me in the face, and, affecting not to know me, went out with a

degree of effrontery which fixed me to the ground with equal astonishment and concern.

DON CHRISTOVAL, on our return home, having exhausted all his eloquence in boasting to me of his happy fortune, I continued the conversation by assuring him that I rejoiced extremely at the satisfaction he experienced from the company of BERNARDINA.—“How! BERNARDINA!” exclaimed my master: “Who has informed “you that her name is BERNARDINA? Do “you know her?” “Perfectly, Sir,” replied I, “as well as SEGNORA DALFA, her aunt; “who to all appearance is not better than “her niece. In short, Sir, I know what “both of them are; and if I had never seen “them, I should not perhaps have had the “honour of being your valet.” “VANILLO,” said DON CHRISTOVAL, “I desire “you would speak openly and without “enigma upon this subject.” “There is “nothing enigmatical in it, I assure you, “Sir; the matter is very clear. I recognized “in the person of the lady you have just seen, “my old acquaintance BERNARDINA, the
“niece

“niece of a deceased Counsellor, whose
“widow has taken her under her care. I
“frequented the house of these harpies for
“near three months, and they induced me
“to eat away a certain number of pis-
“toles which I had reserved as the means of
“continuing my studies. But the most mor-
“tifying circumstance to my feelings is,
“that this very BERNARDINA, this jilt, who
“finds her way so easily to the house of LA
“PEPITA, has imposed upon my in experi-
“ence for the sake of my money.” I pro-
nounced these last words with a degree of
agitation which made DON CHRISTOVAE
laugh. Pleased with the rigours of which I
complained, he affected to sympathise with
my feelings. “Poor lad!” said he with an air
of raillery, “in truth BERNARDINA should
“not have used a fond lover with so much
“cruelty. The next time I see her, VA-
“NILLO, rest assured I will reproach her with
“her misconduct.” As I was not able to pre-
vent this raillery, I left my master to enter-
tain himself as much as he pleased at my
expence, well convinced that the time was
not far distant when he would repent of his

attachment to so perfidious a woman ; a gratification I must infallibly have experienced if I had continued to serve this young Lord five or six months longer ; but, by the decrees of inevitable fate, or, if you please, by my own misconduct, I was, for reasons which I shall now relate, dismissed from the palace of the Bishop two days after.

THE sumptuous table of the episcopal palace was almost daily frequented by nobility and gentry of all ranks and distinctions ; and in such a concourse it is not surprizing that many original characters should occasionally be seen. On the fatal day which removed me from the service of my illustrious friend and master, there appeared at this hospitable board an old Knight, who was afflicted with a disorder which is sometimes called *spouting Latin*. He had formerly been at College, and had so stuffed his head by reading the Latin Poets, that it might not unaptly be compared to a large library very badly arranged. He cited incessantly divers passages which he had got by heart from the works of VIRGIL, HORACE, OVID, PERSIUS, TIBULLUS, and JUVENAL ; and these
authors

authors were so confusedly intermingled in his memory, that he frequently attributed the lines of one author to another, and sometimes misquoted the author himself. While I was waiting at table among the other servants of the palace, the old Knight's favourite topic was, unhappily both for himself and me, accidentally introduced, and among many other mistakes, he quoted, as from PERSIUS, a passage in HORACE. The error was too palpable to escape my notice, and, following my vain and vivacious disposition, instead of using the needle and thread which my friend at MOLINA had given me, I addressed myself with youthful folly to the Knight, intimating that the passage he had just quoted was not from PERSIUS but from HORACE. Scarcely had I finished the sentence when the enraged Latinist darted his eyes upon me, and replied in a furious tone, "Silence, fellow ! I am not to be instructed by a servant." This imperious and scornful reply roused my feelings to an excess. "Why not?" replied I. "It is not because I serve you with wine, in the character of a servant, that

“ that I am not able to assist you with Latin
“ as a man of letters.” The whole company, who had been long well disposed to laugh at the absurdities of my adversary, now burst into a roar, and encreased the wrath of the enraged Knight, who called on DON CHRISTOVAL to chastise me for my insolence; and I was ordered immediately to quit the room. Conceiving that my crime would be expiated by not appearing any more in the presence of this learned retailer of Roman authors, I bowed and obeyed; but in the evening my master, with much regret, said to me, “ My good friend
“ VANILLO, I am extremely mortified by
“ the circumstance which happened at table
“ to-day. Silence would certainly have become you better than so unseasonable a
“ discovery of your knowledge. You have
“ banished yourself from the palace; for,
“ however deserving of satire and correction
“ the ridiculous propensity of the Knight
“ may be, I cannot after this indiscretion,
“ and the injunction he has laid upon me,
“ retain you any longer in my service. He
“ is closely related to my uncle the Bishop,
“ and,

“and, for a variety of reasons, we are unwilling to disobey his commands. The peculiar cast of his character renders him inexorable upon every occasion in which he thinks the honour of his erudition is impeached ; and if I were to suffer this night to pass without discharging you, he would never forgive me. I am reduced therefore to the painful necessity of desiring you to leave the palace. I shall however still retain my affection for you, and to afford you some consolation,” continued he, “I beg you will accept these thirty pistoles. With this assistance you will be enabled to live until you find another place.”

DON CHRISTOVAL, in pronouncing these words, put a purse containing thirty pistoles into my hand. I thanked my kind master for these testimonies of his affection, and, knowing that I could only impute my loss of his service to my own indiscretion, I immediately put off the livery of a servant, and, resuming once more the habit of a Student, departed from the palace.

CHAP-

CHAPTER THE SIXTH.

The Conduct of VANILLO after his Dismission from the Service of DON CRISTOVAL, and by what Accident he entered into the Service of the Licentiate SALABLANCA, Dean of the Cathedral of SALAMANCA. A Description of the singular Character of this Ecclesiastic.

RETURNING, the same evening, to my old lodgings, I again hired them upon a new agreement, until an opportunity should offer of entering into the service of another master; for, having hitherto only experienced its pleasures, I had made up my mind to continue in servitude. In the neighbourhood of my lodgings there was a hotel, frequented by a superior kind of company, particularly ecclesiastics, where I usually dined and spent my evenings. Among other persons who resorted to this house was a Chorister belonging to the Cathedral, named VANEGAS, with whom I formed

formed an intimate acquaintance. He was a fat chubby man, about thirty years of age, extremely lively in his conversation, and of a disposition so congenial to my own that we felt a pleasure in each other's company from the first moment. "May I venture to ask you," said he to me one day, "what are the objects of your pursuit at SALAMANCA?" "I am at present," replied I, "totally out of employment. About eight days ago I was the valet of DON CHRISTOVAL, nephew to the Bishop of this city, but a misquotation of a few lines in HORACE occasioned my being discharged." "Is it possible!" cried the Chorister with astonishment; "tell me the particulars of this event." I related to him all the circumstances that had passed; and when I repeated the passage which had raised the anger of the Knight, he shook every table in the room by the loudness of his laughter; for his tones were naturally so sonorous, that whether he sung, cried, or laughed, his voice resembled more the bass of an organ than a human sound. Having indulged his mirth for some time, he became serious, and
assuring

assuring me he would use his utmost endeavours to procure me a good place, was not long in performing his promise. "My friend VANILLO," said he the succeeding day, "I have found out a situation for you, which, in my opinion, is preferable to that you have left. The Licentiate SALABLANCA, Dean of our Cathedral, has occasion for a person who can act in the double capacity of secretary and servant; and I think you will not acquit yourself badly in these employments."

"I TRUST," replied I, "that I shall be able to discharge my duties with great satisfaction to the Dean, if you will only make me acquainted with his character."

"HE is a man," replied VANEGAS, "between fifty and sixty years of age, of unaffected piety; not, like other devotees, austere in his manners, but mild, affable, and cheerful; and inclined to repay a sincere attachment with unlimited confidence and esteem. After dinner," continued he, "we will wait on him, for I would not lose a moment's time in placing you with this venerable

“nerable ecclesiastic, whose preferments in
“the church amount to more than a thou-
“sand crowns a-year.”

VANEGAS accordingly conducted me to a
small, but elegant mansion, the residence of
the Licentiate SALABLANCA. “Sir,” said
he to the Dean, “I beg leave to introduce
“the young man I mentioned to you, VA-
“NILLO GONZALES, who is descended from
“a good family, but being left an orphan
“early in life is reduced to the necessity of
“servitude. He has passed through the
“third Class of the University with success,
“and possesses honour, good sense, and in-
“tegrity. I will answer for him, for he is
“my particular friend, and I am persuaded
“you will think him a treasure.” “And I
“am sure, replied the Dean, he cannot have
“a better friend. A good servant is a valua-
“ble present: I am indebted to you for re-
“commending him, and I receive him into
“my service the more readily because his
“appearance prepossesses me in his favour.”

THE Chorister, who was extremely pleased
at the success of his recommendation, took
his leave of the Dean, and left me to obey
his

his commands. "Well, my young friend," said my new patron immediately, "we are going, Heaven be praised, to live together. I hope you are not ignorant of the duties which servants owe to their masters. I am sensible on my part of the attention which masters should always pay to their servants. Let each of us rigidly perform what is respectively required of us, and we shall grow in affection as our years advance: consider me in the character of a father, and I shall treat you as if you were my own son." At these words I threw myself at his feet, with earnest protestations that every endeavour on my part should be exerted to merit his kindness. He raised me up, when changing the subject, "VANILO," said he, "you are no longer in an episcopal palace; you have passed from one extreme to the other. You will see neither delicacies nor profusion at my table. You are now in the service of an ecclesiastic of only the second order. At dinner I am contented with a single dish, and my supper consists of the lightest food." The Licentiate, having finished his discourse, desired

fired me to pack up my necessaries and bring them to the Deanry; an order which I executed without delay.

THE DEAN, on my return home, was at supper in the parlour, entertaining himself in familiar conversation with his two other domestics who were waiting on him. One of them was his cook, very diminutive in stature, antiquated in appearance, and deformed in person. The other was his house-keeper, whose appearance age and ugliness had rendered extremely canonical. I mixed occasionally in the conversation; and to commence my functions went to the side-board, on which stood a bottle of port, a decanter of water, and a large glass, which I filled and presented to my master every time he called for it, in a way which shewed that I had learned to perform the office of cup-bearer from the hand of a master. The light food on which the Dean supped that evening was a shoulder of mutton, of which indeed he eat very little; and soon afterwards retired to his chamber, leaving the cook, the house-keeper, and myself, to eat our supper together uninterruptedly.

edly in the parlour. I soon rendered myself familiar with my companions, and did not fail to afford them an opportunity, during our conversation, of expressing their sentiments of the Dean. “How happy are we, my friends,” said I, “to have such a master; so kind and benevolent! Does he always converse with the same affability as he did this evening? Has he not occasionally whims, caprices, and ill-humoured moments?” “No,” replied the distorted cook, “his temper is always the same. At certain periods indeed he appears quite melancholy and dejected, but it seldom lasts long, and his servants never suffer by it. I have,” continued the cook, “served other pious men of a very different character. God knows the sufferings I endured in the service of a Canon of TOLEDO, who, though a man of great wealth, was by nature of so violent a temper that he has frequently thrown a whole fricassée at my head when it did not happen to be seasoned to his palate.” “Thank Heaven,” exclaimed LEONELLA, (which was the name of the house-keeper) “our master,

“master, the Dean, has no fault. Some
“people indeed accuse him of being avari-
“cious, but, although he is a churchman,
“they may perhaps be mistaken. Instead
“of hoarding his money, as they imagine,
“he perhaps distributes it secretly among
“the poor, which is the proper way of
“being truly charitable; for it is better
“to do good privately than to trumpet one’s
“actions to the world.” To these observa-
tions many others of a similar kind were
added; from which I concluded that I was
in the service of an Israelite indeed, with
whom I should pass my days in comfort.

As a shoulder of mutton has not much about
it to amuse and entertain for any length of
time three persons of excellent appetites,
our supper was soon over, and I repaired
to the chamber of the Dean, whom I found
kneeling on the floor before a large ivory
crucifix, enshrined with ebony, and lined with
black velvet. Having finished his prayer
he rose from the ground, and as I perceived
he was disposed to go to rest, I offered to assist
him in undressing, begging, that as I had
not been long used to servitude, he would
excuse

excuse me if I did not acquit myself so adroitly as I could wish. I was not however so awkward as I pretended to be, for I had had great opportunities of learning every thing which my duty required in the service of DON CHRISTOVAL.

WHILE I was performing this task, the Licentiate asked me many questions respecting my family, and conceiving, from my answers, that I was not born to be a valet, he seemed to lament my fate. “Un-
 “fortunate VANILLO,” said he, “how
 “sincerely I regret that you lost at so early
 “a period of your life the authors of your
 “existence. If it had not been for this mis-
 “fortune, you would not now perhaps have
 “been in this dependent condition. But since
 “Heaven has so ordered it, my friend, you
 “must submit without murmuring to its
 “decrees. I will endeavour,” continued
 he, “as far as it is in my power, to soften
 “the rigours of servitude, by treating you
 “in a way that shall scarcely render you
 “sensible that you have a master.”

CHARMED by these professions, I felt my bosom suddenly inspired with so much zeal
 and

and affection for my kind protector, that I could willingly have met death to serve him : a pregnant proof that it is always in the power of a master to secure the fidelity and affection of his servant ! His kind promises penetrated so deeply into my heart, that I addressed myself to him in a speech, the broken accents of which must have convinced him that, however deficient I might be in eloquence, I was by no means so in feeling and moral sentiment. When I had finished, he tapped me softly on the shoulder, saying with a smile, “ Go, my
“ young friend, go to your rest. I have
“ every reason to think that we shall agree
“ perfectly well with each other. Your
“ predecessor had only fifteen pistoles a
“ year ; but I will give you twenty, as a
“ testimony of the satisfaction with which
“ I receive you into my service.”

LEAVING the Dean to enjoy the comforts of repose, I retired to an adjoining chamber, which he used as his wardrobe, where I found a bed nearly as uneasy as that at DOCTOR CANIZARES, on which I passed the night in perturbed repose. To shew, however, that indolence was not among

the number of my faults, I rose at the break of day ; so that when the Dean, who was a very early riser, called me, I presented myself before him dressed and ready to receive his commands. “ I observe,” said he, “ you are not disposed to sleep long “ in the morning ; I like you the better for “ it. Here,” continued he, putting a piece of paper into my hand, “ is an order for “ two hundred crowns, which, to convince “ you of the confidence I repose in you, you “ will carry immediately to DON JUAN DE “ BARROS, the Receiver-General of the Chap- “ ter, and bring me the money for it.” I went accordingly to the house of the Receiver-General and executed my commission in a way that afforded great satisfaction to the Dean, and I became every day a greater favourite.

I HAD been near a month in this service, when one evening, as I was waiting at supper, I perceived the Dean drop suddenly into a profound reverie. Instead of conversing and laughing with his servants with his usual affability, he was quite silent. I ventured to speak to him two or three times, but he answered me only with sighs, and appeared

so

so oppressed with sorrow, that it was evident a secret torment was preying on his heart. The supper, of which he scarcely eat a morsel, being over, he retired to his chamber, and, dispensing with my attendance, locked the door. "This is without doubt," said I to the little Cook, "one of those desponding moments to which you alluded." "Yes," replied the Cook, "you now see how different our Patron is from himself; but these clouds of discontent soon pass away, and to-morrow you will find him in possession of his usual gaiety."

SATISFIED that this prediction would be verified, we continued our supper in the parlour with accustomed cheerfulness, and when it was finished retired to our beds; but while I lay extended upon mine, and sleep was preparing to close my eyes, a voice like that of my master struck upon my ear; and, listening with all possible attention, I heard him walking with agitation across his chamber in sorrowful soliloquy on the subject which depressed his soul. Although I endeavoured in vain to hear distinctly what he said, I caught occasionally certain particular

ticular expressions, from which I conjectured that it was some delicacy of conscience which thus disturbed his repose; and I also heard the sound of many blows of discipline which he inflicted on his body, and probably not without sufficient cause: in this manner he continued to walk, talk, beat, and torment himself during the remainder of the night.

THE ensuing day, rising at his usual hour, he went, without taking any notice of what had passed, into the city, from whence he returned in about three hours, with an air of gaiety and composure, which astonished me the more 'as I expected to see him deep in mortification, and desired me to attend him to his chamber, when, locking the door the moment I went in, "Oh! VANILLO," exclaimed he, "I must make you the partaker of my joy. I will deposit all the secrets of my soul in your faithful bosom. Know then that I have just atchieved an important and glorious victory."—"You require, Sir," said I with gaiety equal to his own, "that I should rejoice in your success, although I am yet ignorant of what it consists."

“sifts.”—“I have vanquished and dislodged,” said he, “the dæmon of avarice ! I had amassed three hundred crowns, which I enclosed with anxious care in that chest, and my soul was attached only to my treasure ; but it has pleased the heavenly Father to look with an eye of pity on his servant ; he has stretched forth his hand to save me ; I have this morning poured all my money into the Poor Box of the Hospital, and by this means have relieved my mind from the heavy burthen that oppressed it.”

You may easily conceive that this discourse, while it filled me with astonishment, gave me no very favourable opinion of my master’s understanding ; and, discovering by my countenance the opinion I entertained, he endeavoured to make me think more favourably of his conduct, by continuing his discourse in the following manner : “ Know, my good friend, that I was born A MISER, and feel a passion for gold which my morality is continually combating without being able to destroy. When I have no more money than is absolutely

“ necessary to buy food and defray the or-
“ dinary expences of my household, my
“ mind is tranquil and serene ; but the mo-
“ ment I acquire any superfluous wealth I
“ forget that it is the property of the poor.
“ I lock it up ; I hide it ; it becomes the
“ idol of my soul ; the lust of wealth fires
“ my mind ; I heap hoard upon hoard ; and,
“ in short, surrender myself entirely to the
“ dominion of this furious passion. But
“ although avarice is triumphant, it does
“ not long enjoy its victory. Charity soon
“ interposes to vindicate her injured claims,
“ and to dispute the prize that avarice has
“ obtained. Then it is that I feel my soul
“ torn by conflicting passions, which plunge
“ me into deep distress and melancholy ; and
“ I am fearful that vice would on these oc-
“ casions frequently prove completely victo-
“ rious, if Heaven did not interpose its aid
“ to preserve my virtue : but, thanks to the
“ Divine Goodness ! I have always hitherto
“ been able to bring my enemy to the
“ ground.”

THE conscientious Divine, charmed with
his recent victory, having in this manner un-
burthened

burthened his mind, and exhibited new transports at having so happily relieved himself of three hundred crowns, prostrated himself before his crucifix, to return thanks to the Almighty for having given him strength to perform this noble action ; where this pious man, for so in truth he was, continued a quarter of an hour in fervent prayer. The effusions of his grateful heart affected me, and I could not avoid esteeming his heroic virtue. When he rose, the smiles of joy beamed on his countenance. “ VANILLO,” said he, “ I am now more happy and “ contented than language can express. If “ you could conceive the secret satisfaction “ I feel in being released from the tyranny “ of avarice, I am persuaded that from this “ moment you would follow my example. “ Let me exhort you, my friend, to the “ glorious atchievement ; and if you have “ more money than your immediate necessities require, carry it, my good friend, to “ the Hospital, and by this means check the “ first growth of that passion which may insensibly lead you to the love of riches.”

I COULD not help smiling at the advice which the Dean thus piously gave me ; but, although a good casuist might have raised considerable doubts as to my right of possession, I was not easily persuaded to part with my pistoles. “ Sir,” replied I to the Licentiate, “ if I were in possession of a benefice which produced more than my necessities required, I should endeavour, imitable as your conduct is, to follow your example ; but consider for a moment, that I am only a poor servant without patrimony, or any other provision than about twenty pistoles, which I saved in my former service ; and can I, without being guilty of imprudence, part with them ? It is impossible to foresee what may happen. If, for instance, some misfortune should deprive me of my present situation, and a long time should intervene before I found a new master, should not I subject myself to the reproaches of my own conscience in having been so improvidently charitable ? ” — “ These sentiments,” replied the Dean, “ would be founded in good sense, if we were warranted in making provision
“ against

“ against the exigencies of futurity ; but
“ we should *take no thought of to-morrow*,
“ nor should the fear of want serve as a pre-
“ tence for depriving the poor of their right
“ to our superfluous wealth.”

THESE refined sentiments produced no effect upon my mind ; I kept my pistoles, and forgot the advice.

ABOUT two months subsequent to this conversation, which the Dean charged me not to reveal to the other servants, he again sent me to the office of the Receiver-General to touch another two hundred crowns, which I brought and delivered to him as before. He put them carefully into the fatal coffer, and kept them during a period of three weeks without appearing to be the least affected. Soon afterwards however the tranquillity of his mind was visibly disturbed, and at length by degrees he discovered symptoms of approaching melancholy. The moment I perceived his situation I addressed him in these words : “ Sir, as I have the honour to be
“ your confidant, I conceive it to be my
“ duty to afford you assistance, although
“ you have not signified the want of it ; for

“ I am but too well informed of what is at
“ present passing in your mind. Avarice
“ and charity are there at variance, and the
“ event of the contest is uncertain. Permit
“ therefore a faithful servant, who is deeply
“ interested in your happiness, to offer you
“ a clue by which you may extricate your
“ mind from the painful labyrinth in which
“ it is involved.”—“ Yes, my dear VANILLO,”
replied the afflicted Dean, “ I struggle night
“ and day against this powerful fiend, which
“ seems to acquire new strength in propor-
“ tion as mine diminishes. Aid me, if it be
“ in your power, to expel the monster from
“ my heart.”—“ Most willingly, Sir,” replied
I, “ and we will, if you please, drag him di-
“ rectly from his den.”—“ Alas,” said the
Licentiate, “ by what means can this possi-
“ bly be accomplished?”—“ Nothing is more
“ easy,” replied I. “ Deliver instantly into
“ my hands these formidable coins, which
“ otherwise will soon destroy your peace of
“ mind, and I will deliver you from the im-
“ pending danger, by casting them into the
“ charity box for the poor which is placed at
“ the portal of St. Bernard’s Monastery.”

THE Dean did not immediately acquiesce in the proposed expedient; but by degrees the reflection of THE MORALIST overcame the emotions of THE MISER. "I consent, my friend," said he; "I invest you with this commission; you will save me from feeling the pangs I should endure in carrying and parting with the money myself."

THE Dean accordingly drew from his coffer a large bag, and putting it into my hands, "There," said he, "there are the victims I mean to immolate. There, my good friend, run, fly, return immediately, and announce to me that the sacrifice is performed."

I INSTANTLY quitted the Dean, who could not help venting a sorrowful sigh at my departure from the room, or rather at seeing his beloved victims carried to the altar. I took the road which leads to St. Bernard's Monastery, with intention faithfully to execute the commission I was intrusted with. It is impossible for man to possess an honefter mind than that with which I first undertook this dangerous charge; and certain it is that I should have executed the

trust with fidelity, if the dæmon of avarice who, in malicious anger at having been defeated by the MASTER, was no doubt determined to be revenged on his MAN, had not tempted me. He stopped me suddenly just as I was entering into the church porch, and whispered in my ear, "VANILLO, where
"are you going, like a simpleton as you
"are? What! carry water to a river that
"already overflows? Do you imagine that
"the members of THE HOSPITAL are in
"want? You are deceived, VANILLO. Its
"coffers are so amply filled by the charitable donations of the rich, that the kettles
"of the poor are always boiling. Their
"revenues daily increase by the bequests of
"dying sinners. Besides, their wealth, unlike the wealth of others, is in no danger
"of being pillaged by the hands of greedy
"stewards. Their revenues are preserved
"by men who take a pleasure in protecting
"their interests for the love of God, without the hope or expectation of advantage
"or reward. Do not then throw away a useful sum of money which good fortune has
"put into your hands. Rather keep it
"yourself,

“ yourself. You will hereafter perhaps have
“ occasion for it. Besides, as the Dean has
“ devoted it to the use of the poor, a portion
“ of it at least is your right ; and if there were
“ any fault in appropriating the whole to
“ yourself, this consideration will render it
“ less.”

THE artful devil, by putting these wicked notions into my mind in the shape of sound reasons, corrupted my integrity. Instead of entering the church, I directed my steps towards THE GREAT SQUARE, where for a trifling discount a Banker soon converted the silver into gold by changing the crowns into doubloons and quadruples, which I conveniently concealed in my pocket, and returned to the Dean, who was waiting for me with impatient anxiety. “ Congratulate
“ yourself, Sir,” said I, accosting him with a lively air, “ the deed is done ; the fish are
“ in their proper element ; and your mind
“ may now resume its tranquillity.”—“ I
“ am glad it is over,” replied the Dean.
“ I thank you for your assistance : and you
“ also, my friend, have occasion to rejoice,
“ since you have so materially contributed
“ to

“to the accomplishment of this great work.”
“—I feel great pleasure,” replied I, “in the
“part I have taken; and I flatter myself
“that if you should hereafter have the mis-
“fortune to relapse you will have recourse
“to the simple medicine which I have so
“successfully prescribed.” The Dean as-
sured me that he had no other intention.

IN a few months afterwards however, find-
ing himself possessed of another superfluous
sum, and of course tormented by similar scru-
ples of conscience, he had recourse to ano-
ther mode of relief. He purchased a large
number of learned works upon morals and
divinity, and hoped by this bargain entirely
to lull his perturbed spirit. But, one day,
after having remained a long time in pro-
found meditation at the feet of his crucifix,
he called me to him. I ran with anxiety to-
wards him, and, observing that he was more
agitated and troubled than ever, said, “My
“dear Master, how do you do? Have you
“again occasion to employ me in any pious
“undertaking?”—“Ah! VANILLO,” replied
he, uttering a deep sigh, “it is a subtle, crafty
“dæmon. I fondly hoped that I had eluded
“his

“ his snares; but, alas! I find that he has
“ again entrapped me. I conceived that by
“ purchasing these books, CHARITY would
“ have no reason to be discontented. Fatal
“ illusion! These works, excellent as they
“ are, are useless, for I have no time to read
“ them; my leisure hours are all employed
“ in prayer. Why then, unhappy man,
“ did I make such a purchase! How many
“ charitable deeds might I have performed
“ with the money which these volumes cost
“ me, and which now only serve to decorate
“ my study with useless ostentation!”

THE mind of this too charitable Ecclesiastic was so deeply affected in having made a purchase from motives which now appeared to him to be criminal, that he was almost disconsolate. A confidential friend is frequently enabled to afford useful advice. “ The fault you have been guilty of, Sir,” said I, “ is not irreparable. You may still,
“ with deference to your better opinion, re-
“ turn these books to the bookseller from
“ whom you purchased them. He will
“ take them back at a moderate deduction,
“ and then I can go immediately to the Hos-
“ pital

“pital with the money they produce.”
“Your advice,” exclaimed the Dean, “is
“like inspiration. I will follow it imme-
“diately.” He accordingly ordered me to
fetch a number of porters, which I did
with an alacrity the cause of which it is not
necessary to explain. There was, however,
one circumstance in this transaction which
vexed me extremely. My Patron resolved
to accompany me to the bookseller, who,
as it happened, was the very Librarian who
knew so well how to recommend boarding-
houses of hospitality.

ALTHOUGH traders in general are not very
well satisfied to take back goods they have
once sold, the old Librarian very obligingly
received back the books, and repaid the
Dean one hundred and fifty crowns out of
the two hundred he had received for them,
contenting himself with the residue, to re-
compence himself as well for certain oppor-
tunities he had lost of selling them to a great-
er advantage, as for interest of his money
from the time the purchase had been made.
I immediately laid hold of the money, and
tied it up in a bag which the Librarian gra-
tuitously

tuitously lent on the occasion. As we were walking along the street I endeavoured to induce the Dean to return home, where I promised to rejoin him in a short time ; but he still continued his intention to accompany me to the Hospital. "How, Sir," exclaimed I, "do you doubt the integrity of your faithful servant?"—"Heaven forbid," said he : "no, my good friend, I am convinced of your fidelity ; my only reason for wishing to accompany you is, that I may be an eye-witness of the victory I obtain ; but, since my company may import a suspicion, I will shew you that you misconceive my motives. Go, and atchieve alone an object so pleasing in the sight of Heaven." In saying these words he turned immediately towards the Deanery, and I turned soon after towards the dwelling of the money-changer, where I again converted my silver into double pistoles.

My purse, as you will imagine, became plump and round, and, in the hope of swelling it to a larger size by a longer continuance at the Deanery, I felt myself the happiest man in Spain. But, alas ! a sorrowful

rowful event disappointed my expectations. The Dean, a few days after the books were disposed of, fell ill; and the most celebrated physicians of SALAMANCA being called in to assist him, he took their prescriptions, and—died! No sooner were his eyes closed than the numerous relations he had in the city flocked with eagerness to the Deanery, confident of finding a hoard of wealth in the coffers of the deceased; and it is impossible to describe their astonishment on discovering only the few crowns that had been reserved for the expences of the house. In answer to their complaints I told them it was no wonder the Licentiate should leave so little behind him, since he had, in pursuance of his favourite creed, that *all superfluous wealth belonged to the poor*, regularly carried his to the coffers of the Hospital. The relations, dissatisfied with the slender inheritance, divided what remained among themselves, leaving me, by a sort of divination of the prompt payment I had made to myself, scarcely sufficient to satisfy one half of the wages that were due to me: this deficiency therefore must be deducted from the portion I received by the good works of my pious master.

CHAPTER THE EIGHTH.

VANILLO quits SALAMANCA, and visits MADRID. *The Adventure he met with on the Road, and the Consequences which it produced.*

THE city of MADRID had so frequently been spoken of in my hearing as the wonder of the world, that I felt a great desire to visit this celebrated metropolis. The present situation of my affairs enabled me not only to gratify my wishes with ease and pleasure, but to appear in a higher and more respectable character than that of a valet. I flattered myself that a young man who was tolerably well versed in literary compositions, and not deficient in understanding, could not fail of making his fortune at Court, either by attaching himself to great men, or insinuating himself into confidence among the Clerks of the Secretaries of State. In short, filled with a high opi-
 nion

nion of my own merit, I immediately purchased a fine mule in order to render my entry more graceful, and departed at the break of the ensuing day for MADRID.

I DIRECTED my course towards PENARANDA, where I arrived in safety the same evening: but I was far, alas! from continuing in safety on the ensuing day. On entering the Province of Old Castile I observed two roads, and not perceiving any person of whom I could inquire their course, I was obliged, after many fruitless conjectures and much embarrassment, to trust to chance. The one road led to the city of AVILA, the other to SEGOVIA, and as a punishment for my manifold offences, as you will find by the sequel, mischance directed me to take the last. It conducted me between two lofty mountains by a route which was sufficient of itself to alarm a traveller even with empty pockets. If I had possessed a proper knowledge of the country I might easily have avoided, by a circuitous path, this dangerous passage, which was never attempted to be travelled except by such as were ignorant of its dangers; for, exclusive of the dreadful precipices by which it was
surrounded,

surrounded, there appeared at the feet of the mountains great excavations, one beyond another, which it was impossible to behold without affright. Expecting every moment to see armed assassins issue from these frightful caverns ; overpowered by the phantoms of imagination ; and feeling that not only my life, but the property of the poor was endangered in this terrifying place, my limbs trembled every step I went ; and I implored the aid of Heaven, without once reflecting that I merited rather dereliction than assistance : I was soon convinced of the justice of its decrees. Two men, vomited as it were from one of the caverns, suddenly appeared before me, and, by their ferocious aspects, and the tremendous sabres which they brandished in their hands, congealed the blood that pressed around my heart : their bodies also were half naked ; and fear, which always enlarges the size of the objects that create it, made me conceive them of enormous stature. These two new-born natives of the earth, by placing themselves directly in front of my mule, obstructed my further progress, and, with their hats in their hands, asked charity, in a manner
which

which rendered it impossible to refuse their request. The humility of their supplication however did not in any degree lessen the horrors of their aspects; and I threw to them a few pieces of silver coin which I had been advised at PENERANDA, to carry loose in my pocket, in order to avoid the dangers to which the exhibiting of gold in my journey might expose me. But the two beggars, far from being contented with this liberal donation, seized the bridle of my mule, and declared that I should not get off at so cheap a rate. "Young gentleman," exclaimed one of them, dragging me from the mule, and throwing me violently to the ground, "we must see in what manner your purse is lined." They accordingly rifled my pockets, and took from my purse above a hundred pistoles; but observing that I appeared more dead than alive, they protested, by way of comfort, that they did not mean to do me any harm; and this assurance dispelled at least one portion of my fears. This ceremony was scarcely ended before I observed, issuing from the mouth of the same cave, a number consisting of at least sixty
men

men and women, some on foot, and others on mules, or asses; this honest group was a banditti of Bohemian robbers. The men wore short cloaks with under garments so torn and ragged that they did not everywhere conceal the skin. Some of the women were whimsically ornamented with gold collars, silver medals, and rich bracelets; the others had only a simple covering from the waist to the feet, the upper parts of their bodies around the neck and shoulders remaining naked, in defiance of all modesty, but perfectly in character with themselves. The two robbers who had so completely emptied my pockets ordered me, on pain of death, immediately to join the cavalcade, which filed off two by two. We descended from the mountain at a distance of two or three hundred paces from the cave, and, crossing a large plain, entered a thick wood, through the middle of which ran a stream of clean water, where the troop halted; and I could have enjoyed the beauties of the surrounding scenery with pleasure, if I had been in more agreeable company. The men busied themselves in spreading upon the
mossy

mossy turf various refreshments, of food as well as wine, which they carried in calabashes after the manner of the pilgrims of St. James, and seemed to possess in great abundance. I was forced to eat and drink with them in spite of my want of appetite; for the moment I showed the least repugnance to conform to their manners, they clapped their hands on their sabres, and by this means rendered me as pliant as a glove. I became, indeed, so docile as to suffer them to take off my clothes, which were of excellent cloth and quite new, and array me in one of the habits of the order; for they always carried a certain number with them, which they forced such young gentlemen as had the misfortune to fall into their hands, to put on.

AFTER indulging themselves in eating and drinking for three or four hours, the men and women began to dance in a style certainly more free than graceful. A savage mirth every where prevailed; and it was resolved to pass the night under those delightful shades; when two of their companions, who had been placed as centinels at a certain distance, arrived, and disturbed the festivity

festivity of the troop by announcing that a brigade of the holy brotherhood was at the distance of only thirty paces from the wood. Relying upon their superior numbers, this information did not appear to create the least alarm; but each, even of the least courageous, calmly prepared himself to receive the enemy. A single brigade would, in all probability, have been too feeble to conquer so large a band of robbers, the majority of whom was both vigorous and valiant; but while the banditti were marching with high contempt of the inferiority of their pursuers, a second brigade of the holy brotherhood having skirted the wood on the other side, closed on their rear and placed them between two fires; and the robbers, finding themselves thus situated, lost all hope of victory, and endeavoured to seek safety by a precipitate flight. The consternation was so great, that, without reflecting on the consequences, I followed the fugitives with as much alacrity as if I had had no occasion to rejoice in being thus delivered from their power. The two brigades pursued us so closely, that we were almost entirely taken

VOL. I. F prisoners.

prisoners; and the conquerors tying us together with cords they had brought with them for the purpose, divided us into two companies, one of which was driven to AVILA, and the other to SEGOVIA. It may be necessary to inform the reader, that the magistrates of these cities, having been informed that a daring banditti infested the neighbouring country with impunity, had each of them dispatched a brigade of archers of the holy fraternity to apprehend them; and so well was the measure concerted, that each of them arrived at the wood at the same time.

I WAS among those who were sent to AVILA, where, on our arrival, we were immediately secured in dark and dismal dungeons to await the approach of inexorable and speedy justice. The Corregidor, an expeditious Judge, came to the prison on the following day to take our examinations, and my lucky stars directed him to begin with me. Struck with the appearance of my youth, "Unhappy young man," said he, "you have begun the career of vice at a very early age indeed."—"Sir," replied

ed I calmly, "it is not the cowl that creates the monk. It is true, I wear the garb of a robber; but I assure you most solemnly I do not belong to the gang." "Where is the next?" said the Corregidor, without deigning to hear my defence. Turning to the other prisoners who were confined in the dungeon with me, he enquired whether they were among the troop who were apprehended in the wood by the holy brethren; and they, rightly conceiving that it would be of no service to assert the contrary, answered in the affirmative. On receiving this answer, the Magistrate closed his enquiries, and ordered the Notary who accompanied him to write down our names, assuring us as he quitted the prison, that we should not languish long in confinement, for that in two hours at most we should learn our fate. Perceiving that this minister of justice intended to pronounce me guilty, I called upon him loudly to hear me. "Take care, Sir, I beseech you, what you do. Do not confound the innocent with the guilty. So far from being one of this gang of robbers, I declare to you

F 2

"that

“that I am myself the victim of their depredations; they robbed me of my money and my mule; forcibly took off my clothes; and, in spite of all resistance, obliged me to put on the dress I now wear.” The Corregidor seemed to pay very little attention to this address; and in about an hour afterwards the Register returned to the prison. “Where is VANILLO GONZALES?” said he with gaiety as he entered the dungeon. “Here,” exclaimed I, imagining he had brought an order for my discharge: “What news have you for him?”—“Very good news,” replied the Register, “for which I shall not charge him any thing, any more than for the expences of his trial, which is just finished; he is condemned,” added this sorry jester, “to die upon the scaffold, and make retribution with his feet dancing in the air.”

THE tone of raillery and the easy manner in which the Register communicated this sentence, made me conjecture that it was not true; but the words he afterwards used to the companions of my captivity left me no longer in doubt of the certainty of my fate: my affliction knew no bounds; I
vented

vented a torrent of tears, and made the dungeon echo to my cries and lamentations: "Why," said I, addressing myself to the robbers, "wicked as you are, why will you not save the life of a man you know to be innocent? It is yet in your power by solemnly declaring to the Corregidor that I was not one of the gang: What advantage will you gain by suffering me to perish?" I hoped by these reproaches to affect the feelings of the villains I addressed, and induce them to bear witness of my innocence; but, instead of doing me this justice, they burst into loud laughter, and ridiculed my fears.

THE Register, who was present during this scene, but without appearing to listen to what I said, took me by the hand, and leading me into a large hall presented me to a Monk of the order of St. FRANCIS, who I concluded had not come there to do nothing: "Here, holy Father," said the Register, "you may begin your work with this youth; induce him to confess, and prepare his mind for an approaching journey to the other world." Throwing myself at the feet of the Cordelier, I implored his protection with great energy, and related to

him with fidelity every thing that had passed between the robbers and myself; but the Register, though he heard this account, went away without uttering a syllable, and left me with the Confessor, and the executioner standing by his side.

“My friend,” replied the Cordelier, “suppose for a moment the adventure you have related be true, it proves, to my mind, that your manifold iniquities have drawn upon you the wrath of Heaven; for divine justice frequently uses human tribunals as the instruments to punish incorrigible sinners. Instead therefore of murmuring at the sentence which has condemned you to die, and which seems to you unjust, you ought to regard it as the mean by which Heaven is about to chastise your crimes. Let me persuade you therefore to employ the few moments you have to live in sincerely confessing your sins and imploring the forgiveness of an offended Deity.”

THE eloquence of the Cordelier, great as it was, did not induce me quietly to resign myself to the life to come, notwithstanding

ing

ing the holy Father spared no pains to procure me a happy exit, and exhorted me in the most pathetic and consolatory manner, mixing with the tears which the idea of suffering drew from me, those which he shed from the interest he took in my heavenly welfare ; but he persisted so steadily, and exerted himself in such a variety of ways, that he at length accomplished his purpose, and I felt my mind suddenly touched with sincere contrition for all the faults I had committed. My spirit groaned with anguish when I recollected the sums I had purloined at MURCIA and SALAMANCA, and, nature yielding by degrees to the awefulness of my situation, I began to think I had merited the ignominious punishment I was about to endure, and became resigned to my miserable fate. But while I was preparing to take my departure to the place of public punishment, where I was doomed to be suspended in the air, the door of the hall suddenly opened, and the Corregidor, accompanied by the Register and one of the Bohemian prisoners, entered the room. "Father," said he to the Monk, "discontinue your
" exhortation to that young man; he has suf-

“ fered fufficiently by the terrors you have
“ infpired. Every individual of the gang in
“ which he was taken has confefled that he
“ was not a member of the confederation,
“ although he wears its uniform. It is not
“ juft that his life fhould be forfeited for be-
“ ing involuntarily among them ; a circum-
“ ftance which it was out of his power to
“ prevent : but, as the inhabitants of AVI-
“ LA have made a grand festival with an
“ intention to memorife the execution of
“ fome of thefe malefactors, here is one of
“ them whom I deliver into your hands to
“ fatisfy their expectations.”

THE Corregidor having fpoken thefe words
left the room, and ordered me to follow him,
which I moft cheerfully obeyed, and furren-
dered my place to the Bohemian, who was one
of the two men that had rifled me of my piſ-
toles. This victim to juſtice placed himſelf
on his knees before the holy Father, and af-
ter being brought to a confeſſion of his crimes,
was led to the place of puniſhment, while
the Corregidor conducted me into an ad-
joining chamber, where perceiving that the
fudden tranſition from deſpair to joy had af-
fected

fecting my senses, he ordered the attendants to bring me some wine, and when I was a little recovered told me I was free.

THE outer doors of the prison were accordingly by his orders immediately opened, and I regained my liberty, but not without the loss of my money, my clothes, and my mule, which had passed from the possession of the robbers into the hands of the officers of justice.

CHAPTER THE NINTH.

The Consolation which VANILLO received on being released from Prison, and the happier Situation in which he found himself on his Arrival at MADRID.

THE oddity of my dress exposed me to the derision of the populace as I passed along the street ; but my mind was too deeply impressed by ideas of my happy escape from the clutches of the Bohemians and the Corregidor, to be sensible of their mockery. To return my thanks to the Almighty for the deliverance he had vouchsafed to grant me, I entered a church, and, retiring to an obscure corner, kneeled down to pray. A sense of the perils I had escaped rendered me fervently devout ; and, promising Heaven to amend my course of life, I beat my breast, in the ardour of contrition, with pious energy.

I HAD no idea that any person observed me ; but an old citizen of AVILA, who was counting

counting his rosary at a little distance from me, received at length so much inspiration from my fervour that he determined to speak to me, and, waiting at the portal of the church, joined company with me as I went out. “Young man,” said he, “you seem
“to be a stranger in this city; and if I may
“venture to judge by appearances, you are
“not in a very happy situation.” At these words, which drew from me a deep sigh, I cast a look of sorrow on the old man, and, being unable to answer him, burst into a flood of tears. My affliction affected him deeply, and being anxious to learn the cause of it—
“My child,” continued he, “you seem in
“great agitation; let me know the occasion of it; do not be afraid of confiding
“in me; I love the feelings which arise
“from a sense of virtue; you appear to be
“a good man; and I am interested for
“your happiness.” Revived by the tenderness of this address, which seemed to offer a resource to my misery, “Sir,” replied I, “since, without knowing who I am, you
“so kindly interest yourself in my fate,
“a sense of gratitude forbids me to conceal
“any

“ any thing from you ; and when I shall
“ have told you the story of my woes, you
“ will, I am sure, acknowledge that I have
“ reason to complain.”

I ACCORDINGLY began to relate to him the cause of my distress, by which he seemed much affected ; and when I had finished my story he embraced me with great warmth, saying, with tears in his eyes, that he was sensibly touched by the proof which Heaven had made of my virtue. This charitable old citizen, perceiving that I had no asylum but the poor-house, kindly carried me home with him, gave me new clothes, kept me as his inmate for eight days, and then, on finding I wished to reach MADRID, sent me to that city by the muleteers with twenty pistoles in my pocket, and a letter of recommendation to a Banker of his acquaintance named LEZCANO. This seasonable succour, for which I did not fail to return my thanks to Providence, afforded me great consolation ; and the sight of the metropolis obliterated all recollection of my late disaster with the Bohemians.

Mr

My first care, on arriving at MADRID, was to carry my recommendatory letter to the Banker, who, after reading it with attention, shewed me every civility, and promised to promote my interest by every means in his power ; but I was disappointed that he neither offered me a bed in his house nor board at his table, which I acknowledge I expected : happily, however, the generosity of his friend had enabled me to support for some time the expences of the hotel, and I hoped in a short time to meet with some useful acquaintance.

A MONTH nearly elapsed in visiting the several parts of this beautiful city, and in seeing all the curiosities it contains ; but though I took great delight in these entertainments, particularly in frequenting THE PALACES, and in observing the different noblemen who attended the royal levee, I did not suffer my curiosity to prevent me from calling almost daily on LEZCANO, that he might keep me in remembrance ; and he always received me not only with great affability and politeness, but continued to assure me that he would not neglect my interests.

“ Have

“Have patience a little longer,” said he, “and
“I will place you in a situation where you
“shall swim like a fish in the water.” Time
however passed rapidly away, and my stock
of pistoles was very nearly exhausted ; but
instead of yielding to despair I incessantly
repeated these words of the Licentiate SA-
LABLANCA, “*Take no thought of the mor-
“row.*” I had indeed received too many
instances of the kindness of Providence
to dread the future ; and I experienced in
a short time that Providence had not aban-
doned me.

THE next visit I paid to the Banker—
“VANILLO,” said he, “you could not
“have come more opportunely. I was go-
“ing to send information to you that I have
“at length found a situation such as I pro-
“mised you. To-morrow you will be ad-
“mitted into the service of DON HENRY of
“BOLOGNA, a perfect gentleman, middle
“aged, extremely rich, and a Knight of the
“Order of ST. JAMES. He has, it is true,
“a tincture of the misanthrope in his cha-
“racter ; but his sentiments are in general
“just, and his manners affable. The good
“sense

“ sense and spirit you possess will suit his
“ temper exactly. He seldom gives any
“ entertainments, and only keeps one ser-
“ vant, to whom he gives a hundred crowns
“ a-year, and six rials a day for board wa-
“ ges. But, beside this, he is extremely ge-
“ nerous. After a few years servitude, he
“ will reward your fidelity in a way which
“ will make you very well contented with
“ his liberality.”

I RENDERED suitable acknowledgements upon this occasion to LEZCANO, who introduced me the ensuing morning to DON HENRY.

THE Knight, who was about forty years of age, of an open countenance, and a person finely made, possessed a noble mansion, of which he only occupied one apartment, which was very elegantly furnished. On being introduced, he fixed his eyes upon me with great attention, saying to my conductor, “ The appearance of this youth agrees
“ extremely well with the character you
“ gave me of him; but if it had not,” added he, “ I should not have hesitated to receive
“ him implicitly upon your recommendation.

CHAPTER THE TENTH.

VANILLO gains the Friendship of DON HENRY, who shews him a secret Register which he kept in his Study.

DON HENRY of BOLOGNA, my fourth master, devoted the morning to study, and went at noon into the city to dinner, from whence he seldom returned until ten or eleven o'clock at night ; so that my place was very nearly a sinecure ; for, as the brushing of his clothes and keeping his study in order were my sole employments, and all he expected from me, I had of course the whole afternoon to myself, either to walk about, to make acquaintances, or divert myself in any other way. I took great care, however, to be at home in the evening before he returned ; and, as he always found me ready to wait on him, he was extremely well satisfied with my conduct. His actions indeed were expressive of his content, for he condescended to converse with me in the most familiar way, and as I generally afforded him some entertainment by

by the recital which he obliged me to make of my observations during the course of the day, his familiarity improved by degrees into a cordial friendship.

AMONG the books which generally engaged his attention, I observed a large volume, the leaves of which he turned over and over every evening, and, after writing several lines and effacing others in it, before he retired to rest, locked it up until the same hour on the succeeding evening. Feeling a great desire to know what this book contained, my curiosity became at last so eager, that I ventured to ask DON HENRY what it was that he so regularly inspected, and affected to preserve with so much secrecy and care.

FAR from being offended at the liberty of this enquiry, he smiled and replied, "I can easily excuse the curiosity you feel to learn the contents of that mysterious volume, and I have no objection to gratify it. It is a manuscript of my own writing," continued he, "which, for my own private satisfaction, I have for these last ten years taken the pains to compose."

IMMEDIATELY opening the book-case, and reaching down the volume, he put it into my hands. "There, VANILLO," continued he, "in that volume you will discover the catalogue of all my friends; and, large as it is, it contains only their names and the times when our acquaintance commenced."

"OH Heavens!" exclaimed I, "is it possible, Sir, that you have the happiness to possess such a number of friends? But what is this that I perceive?" added I, on opening the volume. "All these names are erased and obliterated. What is the meaning of this?"

"I WILL explain its meaning to you," replied my patron. "Your surprize is just. Know then, that I inserted all those names at the times when I thought myself beloved by the persons to whom they belong, and effaced them the moment I found myself deceived."

"Is it credible," said I, "that you can have been deceived so frequently? The proofs you required of their attachment were probably too severe."

"Not

“NOT at all,” replied DON HENRY.
“All these false friends unmasked themselves in the course of our acquaintance. One, after having dazzled me by the warmest professions of affection, convinced me soon afterwards that he only possessed the exterior appearances of friendship, and that inwardly his mind was incapable of feeling so refined a sentiment. Another I discovered sought my friendship only with a view to strengthen his interest in obtaining a promotion he was then soliciting : a third endeavoured to rival me in the affection of my mistress ; and that man,” said he, pointing to a name no longer legible, “used every effort, notwithstanding our intimacy, to seduce the virtue of my sister. In short, I no longer acknowledge among my friends all those whose names you observe are now defaced, and which I originally enrolled upon the credit of their perfidious demonstrations of friendship.”

My eyes ran with eager curiosity over every page of this Register, and observing that every name, except five or six on the last

last page, were entirely obliterated, I said to my master, "In truth, Sir, the astonishment I felt at your having so many friends, is now increased by perceiving you have so few."

"In the course of a few days," replied he, "most likely there will not be one left: for those which still remain owe their distinction to the recency of our acquaintance; rather than to any proofs they have afforded me of their sincerity."

"WHAT unpleasant reflections," said I, "take possession of my mind on this subject! I am tempted to think that the world is incapable of affording a true friend."

"No," replied DON HENRY, "true friends certainly exist, but I am afraid they are rarely found; and there are thousands of men who fondly fancy they have a large number, when in fact they have not, perhaps, one. I enrolled upon my Register," continued he, "all my relations, considering them at least as my fixed and undoubted friends; but, you will perhaps scarcely credit the fact, I have been obliged to erase their names; for, of all my relations,

“relations, my father alone continues his
“attachment, notwithstanding all the mor-
“tification my misconduct has given him.”

THREE or four days after this conver-
sation, my master, on his return from the
city, said to me, “VANILLO, bring me
“the Register of Friendship; I must erase
“two names from the record. I will dash
“from my remembrance an Auditor of the
“Council of Castile, and a Knight of Al-
“cantara; but before I proceed in this re-
“solution, I wish to have your advice upon
“the subject. These two Gentlemen were,
“the day before yesterday, in a mixed so-
“ciety, where a variety of calumnies were
“cast upon my character. The Auditor
“silently listened to the slander, without
“attempting to contradict it, and the
“Knight encouraged it by his applause—
“What is your opinion of such friends?”
“I think, Sir,” said I, “that the name of
“the Auditor ought to be erased, and that
“of the Knight blotted from the Register.”
“I am of the same opinion,” said Don
HENRY; “and in expunging such names,
“I shall not be suspected of doing it from
“notions

“ notions of friendship too delicate and re-
“ fined.”—“ I have not the honour to
“ know,” said I, “ the persons whose
“ names still remain on the list; but I con-
“ jecture, that sooner or later they also will be
“ expunged, since in a space of four or five
“ hundred pages not one remains.”—“ You
“ are mistaken,” replied Don HENRY,
“ you have not examined the pages with
“ sufficient care; there are three names in
“ the third page still uneffaced, and in all
“ probability will ever be. The first is
“ the name of an Old Gentleman whom I
“ have known for a period of thirty years;
“ I passed the days of study with him
“ in my youth; the one has no secret which
“ the other does not know; his interests
“ are mine; and we feel a mutual anxiety
“ for each other’s happiness and concerns.
“ I can command his purse as if the strings
“ were mine, and he has an equal controul
“ over whatever I possess. In short, we
“ are linked to each other by the closest
“ ties of friendship, without the danger of
“ diminishing its force by our daily inter-
“ course. The second is the name of a
“ German

“ German Officer, who attended me to the
“ field in an affair of honour, and who has
“ more than once exposed his life to dan-
“ ger for my sake. The third is the name
“ of a noble-minded man to whom I have
“ long owed a large sum of money, without
“ his having ever hinted at security, or re-
“ quested re-payment.”

IN looking at the names of these friends
I perceived another that was not effaced ;
but my patron pointed out a mark at the
bottom of it which was scarcely perceptible.
“ Permit me, Sir,” said I, “ to enquire
“ why this name is only half erased ? there
“ must be some secret reason for it. The
“ friendship of this man was perhaps equi-
“ vocal ; and in the uncertainty you enter-
“ tained of his real sentiments, you was
“ doubtful whether he ought to be in or out
“ of this Register.”—“ No, no,” replied
“ Don HENRY, “ I am completely satis-
“ fied with respect to his character. He is
“ an old Galician Licentiate, who left his
“ country at a very early age to seek his
“ fortunes at Madrid. I knew him at a
“ time when he scarcely knew how to sub-
“ sist.

“ fift. We were then intimate friends, and
 “ the pleafanteft moments of our lives were
 “ paffed in each other’s company. But of
 “ late years he has been an active agent to
 “ the crown, and is at prefent in great
 “ opulence. He avoids all thofe who knew
 “ him before his profperity, and, in all
 “ probability, we fhall never fee each other
 “ again.”

DEPLORABLE effect of worldly wealth !
 Philofophers have well obferved, that if we
 wifh to preferve a friend, we ought constantly
 to pray to God that he may never become
 rich.

CHAPTER THE ELEVENTH.

VANILLO goes into the Service of another Master ; and becomes a Page to the Duke of OSSUNA.

I FORESAW to a moral certainty, that the few names which still remained in the Register of Friendship would be obliterated : an event which took place in less than a month. “ The work is finished,” said Don HENRY, as he drew the pen across the last recorded name, “ I will no longer continue this Register. I only blot out one day what I had written the day before. It is like the toil of the Danaïdes.”—“ You are right, Sir,” said I, “ and I should now advise you to make the same trial with respect to Love, as you have made respecting Friendship, and see whether you find your mistresses more
VOL. I. 6 faithful

“faithful than your friends.”—“Oh, heavens,” exclaimed he, bursting into a fit of laughter, “I should profit greatly by the exchange. No, my friend, if you had had my experience of the sex, you would not have thought this proof necessary.” “Good,” replied I, laughing in my turn, “you imagine then that I am entirely ignorant of the baseless foundation of female friendship: alas! young as I am, I know the sex but too well. The knowledge, it is true, cost me a few pistoles; but this is a science not to be acquired without expence.”

DON HENRY seemed astonished at my observations. “How, VANILLO,” interrupted he, “you appear well informed for your years. Pray tell me by what means you gained this extraordinary knowledge of the sex.” I accordingly related to him the history of my acquaintance with BERNARDINA, which afforded him infinite diversion. But soon after, assuming a serious countenance, he strongly admonished me to avoid with anxious care every tender attachment. “I have also,” added he, “made

“made sacrifices upon the altar of Love,
 “and I have been a greater victim than
 “yourself; but I am now so much upon
 “my guard, that I can gaze upon the most
 “dangerous beauties with impunity: a
 “proof that man need never become the
 “slave of woman if he chuses to avoid it.”

DON HENRY, although he was now satisfied that the men on whom he had bestowed his friendship were incapable of returning it, continued to mix in their company with the same seeming pleasure as if they had been real friends; he dining occasionally with them, and they more frequently dining or supping with him.

AMONG those who most frequently visited him was a gentleman named JOSEPH QUIVILLO, a man of considerable merit, in the service of the Duke of OSSUNA: QUIVILLO seemed to take great pleasure in conversing with me, which I indulged the more willingly, as my master, far from finding it disagreeable to him, would frequently draw me into these discourses for the entertainment of the company.

ONE evening, among others, a number of little sallies escaped me with which the guests were so well pleased, that they paid me the highest compliments. Each of them resounded my praise, but particularly QUIVILLO, who at length observed, that I should prove a very valuable present to the Duke of OSSUNA. "That nobleman," continued he, "is fond of lively characters, and would be overjoyed to number among his pages a young man of VANNILLO's merit." DON HENRY, immediately addressing himself to QUIVILLO, said, "Whatever affection I may feel for VANNILLO, I consent that you shall take him from me, on condition of his being numbered among the pages of the Duke." "That being the case," replied QUIVILLO, "only let him meet me to-morrow morning at the Duke's house, and I will undertake the rest."

ALTHOUGH I felt a great pleasure at the prospect of being a page to so great a man, I was sufficiently politic not only to conceal my joy, but to affect so great an indifference upon the subject, that

Don

DON HENRY asked me, if I had any objection to the proposed promotion. I coldly answered, that I had not, but that my attachment to him would not permit me to quit his service without regret. The guests universally applauded my answer, and gave me credit for my honest attachment; and my master, as well as his companions, was the dupe of my affectation. "VANILLO," said he, "I should feel that I abused the sincerity of your zeal, if I were to prevent you from entering into the service of the Duke of OSSUNA, who, I am sure, will soon enable you to make a brilliant fortune."—"I am not yet in his service, Sir," replied I; "who can tell? perhaps I may not have the happiness to please him;" and, in fact, this was the only danger of which I was apprehensive; for, notwithstanding my liveliness and sagacity, I doubted whether I should be found of sufficient ability to fill the station they designed for me.

THE ensuing morning I went, by the permission of DON HENRY, to the mansion

of the Duke, where I met QUIVILLO, who had been waiting for me with all the impatience of a man eager to communicate agreeable news. "VANILLO," said he, "you are upon the Duke's establishment. From the description I have given to him of your character, he has appointed you one of his pages, and has authorised me to provide you with the livery." Don JOSEPH accordingly conducted me to the Major-domo, who immediately sent for the taylor to measure me, and in two days I was properly equipped to appear in the presence of my noble employer.

"My friend," said the Duke, on my entering the room, "do you think you will be able to discharge the duties of a page?"

"Why not, my Lord?" replied I. "I have hitherto given satisfaction in the character of valet, and it does not seem to me that the one is a more difficult office than the other."

"You are right," replied he, smiling, and turning to QUIVILLO. "I have a
"good

“good opinion of this youth,” added he ;
 “I do not think he will prove the most
 “stupid page in this house.”

THREE or four Sicilian noblemen enter-
 ing the room at this instant, and prevent-
 ing further conversation with the Duke,
 I retired to join the number of my new
 companions.

CHAPTER THE TWELFTH.

The Duke of OSSUNA is appointed Vice-roy of Sicily; he departs from Madrid to embark at the Port of Barcelona, from whence he proceeds to Genoa, and from thence to Naples.

THE Duke of OSSUNA had recently returned from Flanders, where he had rendered important services to the State. The King had appointed him Gentleman of the Chamber, and one of the four Members of the Council for Portugal. But these promotions were far from satisfying his ambition. He secretly sighed for the Government of Sicily, which was on the point of becoming vacant by the return of the Duke of THAURISANO, the then governor; the time of his appointment being nearly expired.

THERE

THERE were two reasons which induced the Duke of OSSUNA to aspire to this vice-royship; the one was, that the appointment gave him a great opportunity of carrying into execution his enterprizes against the Turks, and the other was a certainty of succeeding to the Government of Naples; and his solicitations upon this subject were, at length, successful; for the Duke of UZEDA, the favourite of PHILIP THE THIRD, being his friend, he was appointed, in preference to all his rival candidates, to this important post, which he was certainly better calculated to fill than any other that could have been selected. The Duke, upon a remonstrance which he made to the Council of State, was enabled, by an appropriation of a stated portion of the revenues of the island, to keep a large fleet continually equipped in the ports of Sicily for the purpose of annoying the Turkish trade, and was entrusted with other very extensive powers for carrying his designs into execution.

HAVING received his commission, and made the proper preparations for his depar-

ture, he determined to proceed to Barcelona with Prince PHILIBERT of Savoy, who had been lately appointed High Admiral of Spain, and who had received orders to convey him to Sicily; but as the great numbers of which their respective suites were composed could not have been accommodated on a road where there were but few inns, not very plentifully supplied with provisions, the party was divided, and while the Prince, the Duke, the Dutcheſs, Don JUAN TELLES their ſon, and five-and-twenty domestics, proceeded by land to *Barcelona*, the reſt of the train, with all the baggage, reached the neighbouring port of *Alicant*, and there embarked to join them.

I WAS among the number that was not with the Duke.

GOING out of the gulph of Alicant, we were cloſely chaced and attacked by a Barbary corſair, and I felt my portion of fear for our ſafety; for the enemy was greatly ſuperior to us in ſtrength. Having made a vigorous reſiſtance for more than a quarter of an hour, the corſair at laſt boarded us, and
put

put us in chains. To men who were proceeding in a sort of triumph to Barcelona, with the fairest prospects of acquiring immense riches in Sicily, such a capture was a severe misfortune; it extinguished at once in my mind all the gay and flattering hopes I had for some time fondly indulged.

BUT as the corsairs were proceeding with their rich prize towards the Coast of Barbary, insulting our distress, and deriding the weakness of our opposition, they were, in the latitude of Carthagená, in their turn, captured by Don ANTHONIO DE TERRACUSO, who was conducting a squadron of six Spanish frigates from Cadiz to Barcelona, for the purpose of conveying the Prince and Vice-roy to Sicily. The victorious TERRACUSO carried us, together with two galleots filled with slaves and booty, which he had taken with the pirates, to the port of Barcelona, where, after continuing a few days, we reembarked and proceeded to Genoa, from whence Prince PHILIBERT departed to Turin, on a visit to his father, the Duke of SAVOY, who was waiting there in expectation of his arrival.

DURING our stay at Genoa, the Genoese nobility, who possessed estates in the island of Sicily, paid the highest testimonies of respect to the Duke. He also received presents to a very considerable amount, not only from the Senate, but from the merchants who traded to the island. The Count de LEMNOS, Vice-roy of Naples, also dispatched two messengers to request that the Duke would take that city in his route, not only to enjoy for a few days its charming pleasures, but to afford him an opportunity of consulting personally on the common interests of the two kingdoms. The Duke, who really wished for this interview, immediately accepted the invitation. We accordingly put to sea soon afterwards, and coasting along the ecclesiastical shores of Italy, happily arrived in the port of Naples.

THE Count de LEMNOS gave the Duke and the Dutchess, to whom he was related, a most magnificent reception. An apartment in the royal palace was prepared to receive them, and every day presented them with new entertainments: there was a continued succession

succession of feasts, balls, and concerts, during our residence at Naples. The nobility and gentry, seconding the inclination of the Vice-roy, spared neither time nor expence to certify to the Duke the satisfaction his presence afforded them; although they might have recollected the rigorous administration of DON PEDRO GUION, the Duke's grandfather, who was formerly their Vice-roy.

ENGAGED, however, as the Duke appeared to be in the pleasures which the Neapolitans afforded him, he did not forget to hold many private conferences with the Count, and to draw from him a fund of information, which was extremely useful to him afterwards. At length we were obliged to bid adieu to Naples; and, the Sicilian navy being at that time employed in conducting the Duke de THAÛRISANO, who had embarked for Spain without waiting the arrival of his successor, we were conveyed to Palermo by a Neapolitan convoy.

CHAPTER THE THIRTEENTH.

The Duke of OSSUNA arrives in Sicily: His Entry into Palermo; and the first Proceedings of his Administration.

THE Duke on his arrival at Palermo, wishing to make his public entry with less pomp than diligence, continued only three days *incognito*; and the ensuing morning entered the great sea gate of the city, mounted on a horse finely caparisoned, and surrounded by the principal nobility and gentry. He was preceded and followed by pages and staff-officers, who dazzled the spectators by the brilliancy of their rich and superb liveries, which had been provided at Genoa for this purpose. The Dutchess followed in a magnificent coach drawn by six horses, escorted by a body of guards, and followed by a string of

of carriages and horsemen, which reached from one end of the city to the other. During the procession pieces of money were thrown among the populace, and nothing was seen for three days but public rejoicing.

At this period the most uncontrouled licentiousness reigned throughout Sicily. Every person followed the dictates of inclination alone, with no fear of punishment either from God or man. The magistrates, instead of punishing the guilty, so badly discharged their duties, that every species of outrage was committed with impunity, and nothing was heard of but robbery and murder; which, according to the manners of the country, was generally effected by secret assassination.

THE new Vice-roy, to stop the farther progress of these disorders, and restore tranquility to civil society, issued a PROCLAMATION, which was posted up at the corner of every street, importing in substance, that his Catholic Majesty, informed of the violences which prevailed throughout the kingdom in contempt of all law, was
anxious

anxious to restore peace and good government; that for this purpose he had suppressed the privilege of SANCTUARY to offenders, who frequently availed themselves thereof, though they had been guilty of crimes that deserved death; that in depriving the churches of this privilege, he had a right to expect that the Sicilian barons, and other noblemen who had heretofore protected malefactors, would cease any longer to protect them, and especially refuse to conceal them in their houses, or screen them from the rigour of the laws; and that his said Catholic Majesty had invested Don PEDRO GUION, third Duke of Ossuna, second Marquis of Pennafiel, seventh Count of Urenna, Gentleman of the Chamber, Knight of the Golden Fleece, Vice-roy and Captain General of Sicily, with special powers to examine into and reform all matters, as well civil as criminal, and whether adjudged or not adjudged under the two former governments. I ought not to forget that by this edict it was also declared, that all persons who discovered to the Vice-roy crimes committed in secret, which could

could not be legally proved although the authors of them were well known, might be assured that their discoveries should not be revealed, and that they should be amply rewarded, either from the forfeited property of the convicts, or the coffers of the King; but that, on the contrary, if any person neglected to discover any offence which he might know to have been committed, he should suffer the severest punishment; and that informers who made known the delinquency of magistrates, whether judges or governors of towns, should be doubly rewarded. The Duke also forbid all persons from carrying short daggers, stilletos, pocket pistols, or cutlasses; and the Proclamation concluded by exhorting all persons guilty of offences to surrender themselves prisoners within a certain time, and to merit by an open confession either an entire pardon, or a partial remission of the punishment inflicted by the laws; or otherwise they were to be proceeded against with the utmost rigour, and every means taken to apprehend their person.

and confession among the
other

THIS

THIS Proclamation produced great consternation in Palermo, as well as in the other cities of the kingdom to which it was sent. All persons of wealth and virtue were well pleased with this spirited measure ; and criminals, together with the nobles who gave them protection, were the only persons it afflicted. The Duke, who rightly judged that the guilty would not quit their retreats to surrender themselves into the hands of justice, adopted such prompt and vigorous measures to detect and draw them from their asylums, that in less than three months every prison in the island was filled. Justly conceiving that very salutary effects might be derived by severe and rigorous examples, during his first year he tried and beheaded two noblemen for having concealed offenders ; hanged seven robbers ; condemned twelve others to the gallies ; and consigned a multitude of inferior offenders to other punishments. These executions, which were all performed at Palermo in one day, where no execution of any kind had been known for three or four years before, spread terror and consternation among the
other

other cities; and the virtuous part of the community, feeling their good effects, considered the Duke as an angel sent from Heaven to restore happiness to Sicily.

THE Vice-roy, having given these proofs of his activity and courage, immediately departed from Palermo to make the circuit of the kingdom, and to try those offenders who had been arrested by his orders in the several provinces. He proceeded first to the infant city of *Mont Real*, and from thence to *Cefalu*, where, finding the castle totally defenceless and almost in ruins, he put the Governor under an arrest: he also suspended the Governor of *Catania* from his office; and, it appearing that they had neglected to apply to the preceding Vice-roy for the necessary military stores, they were dismissed from their employments. The Governor of *Palli*, however, experienced a very different treatment; for, in reward for the care and attention he had paid to the duties of his station, his salary was considerably augmented. The principal object of the Vice-roy was to put the maritime towns into such a state of defence as might enable

enable them to deter the Turks from making a descent on the island; and accordingly he ordered them all to be fortified.

MESSINA, where he ordered a great number of prisoners to be executed, was a place to which he gave great attention, and the Sicilians perceiving the industry with which he caused powder, ball, cannon, muskets, and every other warlike instrument to be manufactured, rightly conjectured that he had secret projects of great importance in contemplation. This conjecture was confirmed by his ordering a number of new frigates and gallies to be immediately constructed, and it was concluded that he intended not only to render Sicily inaccessible to the Turks, but that he meant even to follow the enemy into their own ports, and make them feel the terror of the arms of PHILIP THE THIRD. The Duke finished his circuit at SYRACUSE, and, after delivering the gaols of their malefactors, returned to PALERMO, where he was received with joyful acclamations, and every demonstration of grateful attachment. The peaceable inhabitants of Sicily had indeed great rea-
son

son to be contented with his government, for in less than six months he had reduced the number of daring and dangerous offenders with which it abounded; restored the tribunals of justice to proper authority; and given tranquillity and happiness to the people.

THE Duke, having thus arranged the internal policy of the state, turned all his thoughts to external operations against THE TURKS, who had infested the coasts, and, as opportunity occurred, carried away the inhabitants, after burning the adjacent villages, and committing other daring outrages. He accordingly ordered Don OTTAVIO, of Arragon, the commander of the Sicilian navy, to equip six frigates and two gallies, and proposed to the Grand Duke of Tuscany to join their forces. The Grand Duke replied, that he should send a squadron to sea at a certain time with a view to attempt some enterprize against Carmania; that the Duke of OSSUNA had only to take his measures accordingly, so that the joint forces might be ready at the same time to act in concert against the common enemy. The Duke, pleased with this
reply,

reply, astonished a country which had long indolently born the insults of the Turks, rather than take any measures to oppose them, by the powerful armament he raised. The fleet, on board of which were many Sicilian noblemen, was just ready to sail under the command of OTTAVIO, when information arrived that the fleet of the Grand Duke had quitted Leghorn. Each of the squadrons, as if jealous of the honour of first finding and giving battle to the Turks, steered in different directions, and separately acted with equal courage. The Tuscan admiral laid siege to the castle of Agrimano, and took it by storm, notwithstanding the strength of its garrison, and, after collecting a considerable booty, set the place on fire. On the other side, Don OTTAVIO surprised twelve Turkish gallies, and many other vessels, in the port of Scio, and took them without resistance. The victorious Admiral, on his return to Palermo, received, by order of the Vice-roy, all imaginable honour, and the Turkish spoils were ostentatiously displayed to the eyes of the astonished *Sicilians*. The value of the capture

capture was estimated at six hundred thousand crowns.

BUT the Sicilians were entertained with a spectacle still more gratifying than all the rest: they beheld, on the disembarkation of the ships, seven hundred Christians who had been delivered from slavery, and nearly three thousand Mahometans bound in chains. The Vice-roy divided the captured property into four parts; one of which he sent to the Court of Spain; distributed another among five of the principal cities of Sicily; gave a third to the officers, foldiers, and sailors of the squadron; and the fourth, which was not the least, he kept himself. It is certain, however; that he employed a great part of the wealth he amassed in relieving the indigent, and in other good actions by which he procured great popularity and applause.

BUT here, my friendly Reader, permit me to pause. I perceive that I am beginning to invade the province of THE HISTORIAN. It will be conceived, perhaps, that I intend to write all the transactions of Sicily during the government of OSSUNA, whereas

whereas it is my sole intention to relate to you my own history. Leaving, therefore, the exploits of this hero to abler pens than mine, I will hereafter mention no circumstance of his government in which I was not myself concerned; for I ought not to forget, that it is by an account of my own adventures that I expect to entertain you.

C H A P.

CHAPTER THE FOURTEENTH.

The useful Friend which VANILLO met with, and the fortuitous Circumstance which rendered his Services necessary to the Viceroy.

ALTHOUGH I had the honour to serve his Excellency in the character of a gentleman Page, I was not thereby rendered more rich. This post, in the families of great men, is not so lucrative as that of steward, or maître d'hotel. It is true my brother Pages and myself found excellent good cheer; we were extremely well kept; but we never touched a halfpenny. The money of which the Viceroy ordered charitable distributions to be made, did not pass through our hands, but was consigned to the care of higher orders in the household. A situation so unproductive frequently brought to my recollection my lucrative station at the Deanery, and the provision I received from DON HENRY of

BOLOGNA. A hundred crowns a year, and six rials a-day, appeared to me so preferable to the high and barren honour of attending on a Viceroy, that I could not avoid complaining of my condition to QUIVILLO, who, more happily situated than I was, made his way in the world with great rapidity, since from the character of Gentleman to his Excellency he had already been promoted to a Lieutenantcy in the Guards. “I have no doubt, DON JOSEPH,” said I, “that you intended to afford me great advantages when you introduced me to the service of his Excellency, and I feel as much gratitude to you as if he had overwhelmed me with favours; but, between ourselves, is it not astonishing, that since I have had the honour to be his Page he has not once favoured me by any particular attention, notwithstanding you apprized him of my talents, and the known friendship he entertains for persons of lively conversation?” “I AM not less surprized at this circumstance than you are,” replied QUIVILLO: “and have frequently thought of it even with vexation; for you will easily imagine, that
“my

“ my mind cannot feel much content when
“ you are dissatisfied. As I induced you to
“ quit a comfortable and advantageous situ-
“ ation, I am bound to attend to your inte-
“ rests; and I assure you most solemnly, that
“ my mind is much oftener employed in
“ contriving your promotion than my own.
“ As a proof of the truth of this assertion,”
continued QUIVILLO, “ I have long medi-
“ tated a scheme, the success of which I
“ think infallible, and from which you will
“ derive important advantage. THOMAS, his
“ Excellency’s old and confidential Valet, is
“ my most intimate and, I believe, sincere
“ friend; for it was his interest which pro-
“ cured me my late appointment. You are
“ not ignorant that this domestic is the man
“ in whose bosom the Duke reposes all the
“ secrets of his heart, and by whom he is in
“ short almost entirely governed: do not
“ therefore omit any opportunity of gaining
“ the good opinion of this man, whose friend-
“ ship may be extremely useful to you; he
“ is capable of rendering you many services
“ with the Duke; his bare word will fix you
“ firmly in the good opinion of his master,

“ and afford you frequent opportunities of
 “ conversing with him. This scheme, which
 “ I have formed entirely for your benefit, shall
 “ soon be accomplished; and I think that, in
 “ the course of eight days at farthest, I shall
 “ hear that you have obtained his affec-
 “ tions.” In short, DON JOSEPH was so
 certain of success, that he only required one
 more conversation with THOMAS to effect
 his purpose.

THIS old and faithful servant, who was a
 man of approved merit, had not only been
 born in the GIRON family, and successively
 served the two last Dukes of OSSUNA, but
 had been the companion of the present Vice-
 roy's infancy, whose confidence he had gain-
 ed by accommodating himself to his parti-
 cular humours and inclinations, with which
 indeed he was better acquainted than any
 other person existing.

THIS favoured domestic piqued himself
 on writing the Spanish language with pecu-
 liar elegance and correctness, and I made my
 court to him, through the medium of his
 ruling passion, with so much dexterity and
 address, that he began in a short time to ex-
 hibit

hibit towards me unequivocal symptoms of esteem and friendship. Authors in general cannot be so highly gratified as by hearing their productions applauded; but THOMAS would, I think, like the *Drusus* of HORACE, have willingly forgiven a debtor who had listened with the least complacency to his works. On the discovery of this innocent foible, so common to literary characters, I incessantly requested of him to read to me particular parts of his various works; for he had not only completed the history of one of the Duke's campaigns in FLANDERS, and a panegyric of his conduct while resident at the Court of the Archduke; but was now composing a Diary of the present Viceroy's transactions in Sicily; and, although his compositions were far from being bad, his readings were frequently so tedious, that I seldom found him a very entertaining author, and had frequently great difficulty in rendering my patience equal to his vanity. I always testified, however, extreme pleasure at what he read, and even imitated the debtor of *Drusus*, by inclining my head in such a manner as made me seem the more

anxious to hear. Delighted by the apparent constancy of my attention, he at length selected me for his confidential friend. "VANNILLO," said he one day to me, "You must have observed that I have for some time entertained a favourable opinion of you; but I will now espouse your interests, and conduct the vessel of your fortune into a safe harbour. Confide the task of rendering you acceptable to his Excellency to my care, and be assured that I will seize the earliest opportunity to procure your advancement."

THIS declaration I carried with joyful haste to DON JOSEPH, who congratulated me on my success. "Thank Heaven!" exclaimed he, "your affairs now begin to wear a more favourable aspect. Your situation will no longer disquiet my mind. THOMAS has every thing in his own power, and you may now entertain the highest hopes of success!" And QUIVILLO did not congratulate me without reason on the acquisition of this new friend, who soon afterwards convinced me that I had not done wrong in relying on his professions. Being

attacked

attacked by a severe fit of the gout which confined him to his chamber, he sent for me, and said, " I promised, VANILLO, to
" embrace the first opportunity to do you
" service, and one at present offers itself
" which I will not permit to escape : I
" will inform you in what it consists. List
" ten attentively to my discourse upon this
" subject, for your interests are very ma-
" terially involved in it. The Viceroy our
" master, notwithstanding the seeming cold-
" ness of his disposition, is not an enemy to
" Love ; and although he affects to live in
" such a way as to prevent all suspicion of
" infidelity to THE DUTCHESS, he is rarely
" without a favourite mistress. The Baro-
" nefs of CONCA, who is only eighteen
" years of age, and is, without doubt, the most
" striking beauty in SICILY, is, at present,
" the object of his affections. Her husband,
" who is lately dead, and whose least defect
" was that of being fifty years of age, was so
" extremely jealous, violent, and capricious,
" that she was not only immured from all
" the comforts of society, but frequently
" treated by him like the lowest slave. She

“ resides at present with her mother, at whose
“ home the Duke frequently visits in order to
“ enjoy the pleasure of seeing her ; but their
“ interviews are conducted with such pro-
“ found secrecy and address, that the Dutch-
“ ess does not even suspect she has a rival.
“ I am the Duke’s confidential companion in
“ these nocturnal visits, which it would not
“ be convenient to him to make alone ; and,
“ as it will be impossible for me to accom-
“ pany him in my present situation, I have
“ chosen you as my substitute on these oc-
“ casions. His Excellency is informed of
“ my intention upon the subject, and, upon
“ my undertaking to answer for your se-
“ crecy, has consented that you shall sup-
“ ply my place until the return of health
“ enables me again to discharge this impor-
“ tant function.”

RETURNING unfeigned thanks to my be-
nefactor for the preference he had given me
over so many other domestics, who would
have been proud of the honour of so deli-
cate an employment, I requested him to in-
form me of such particulars as might enable
me the better to execute my task to the satisf-
faction.

faction of my illustrious employer; but he desired me to go first and present myself, in his name, to his Excellency, and inform him that I was ready and anxious to receive his commands, and then to return to him in order to receive particular instructions for my conduct in this important embassy.

CHAPTER THE FIFTEENTH.

The particular Conversation VANILLO had with the Duke, and with what Address he acted the Part which THOMAS had assigned to him.

UNWILLING to lose a moment upon such an occasion, and conceiving that I should meet with no unfavourable reception, I went immediately to his Excellency's study, where he was alone, and, boldly opening the door, entered the room. Nor was I deceived in my conjectures upon this subject, for the moment he perceived me—
 "Come forward, my friend VANILLO," said he with a smiling countenance. "You are, I understand, the person whom THOMAS has selected as his deputy; and his good opinion is not only a sufficient testimony of your merit, but clear and unequivocal evidence of the talents you possess; for I know that he is not easily deceived in his estimation of characters."

"I CANNOT

“ I CANNOT flatter myself,” replied I, “ that he might not have made a better choice; but it will be some consolation to your Excellency to learn, that this useful servant will in all probability be in a situation to resume his functions in the course of a few days.”

“ SHOULD he recover to-morrow, VANILLO,” replied the Duke, “ as he has once placed you in my confidence, you shall continue to possess it. Besides, the poor fellow begins to grow old and infirm, and is in want of a coadjutor.”

“ PERMIT me, my Lord,” said I, “ to add another reason : a nobleman, burthened as you are with the weighty cares of government, requires the assistance of at least two persons to lessen your fatigues.”

THE Viceroy, far from being offended with my freedom, replied with great good humour, that he intended to find employment for both of us ; and, in order to judge of my talents, asked me what masters I had served.

ORATORS are sometimes less brilliant in their speeches in proportion as they feel an

anxiety to excel; but in the narration which this question obliged me to make, I succeeded so happily that I afforded my noble auditor complete satisfaction by the ingenious representation I gave him of the several conditions in life through which I had passed.

“ I AM perfectly contented with you,” said he, “ you shall accompany me this evening. Go, return to THOMAS, and tell him to have two Friars habits ready for the occasion.”

RETURNING to the apartment of this favourite domestic, I gave him such an account of my conversation with the Duke, as convinced him that his Excellency was perfectly satisfied with his choice. “ The business is done,” said he. “ His Excellency has discovered your abilities; your fortune is made; and I rejoice with you most heartily on the occasion; but it will now be necessary for me to instruct you more particularly in the task you have to perform. You will take care to be with me this evening immediately after his Excellency has supped; he will be here soon afterwards in order to disguise himself in
“ the

“ the habit of a Friar ; for this is the concealment under which he usually visits the Baronefs. You must alfo disguise yourfelf in the fame manner, in order to efcape unobferved from the palace ; and muft be particularly careful to return before the break of day. Thefe are all the inftructions I have to give you. You perceive,” continued he with a fmile, “ that nothing more is expected from you upon this occafion, than to act as the companion of a pious character.”

I WAS not lefs punctual than the Duke in returning at the appointed time to the apartment of THOMAS, where, without any ceremony, we each of us put on a Friar’s habit, and being equipped in fuch a manner as to be eafily miftaken for Monks going their nightly circuit to confefs the fick, we iffued from the garden of the palace through a private door, of which my companion kept the key, and he foon convinced me that he was not unacquainted with the neareft way to the widow’s houfe. The door was filently opened to us, without any light, and every circumftance of our reception was fo cautious.

and

and concealed, that I might have fancied we were entering the mansion of a virgin, who, wishing to change her condition, had admitted her lover without the permission of the family ; but the Baronefs, although ſhe was naturally a coquet, and extremely vain of the empire ſhe had gained over the Vice-roy's heart, was willing to conceal the intimacy from the public eye, not indeed from any anxiety to preſerve her reputation ; but from a fear of incurring the vengeance of the Dutcheſs.

PREVIOUS to our departure from the palace, THOMAS had given me a very high deſcription of the beauty of this adored charmer ; but I found the original far ſuperior to the portrait he had drawn of it. My eyes never beheld a woman of ſuch tranſcendant beauty ; but I muſt confeſs the richneſs of her attire, as well as the art with which ſhe was decorated, conſpired with the charms of nature to produce the pleaſure I felt in admiring her. Brilliant, however, as both dreſs and beauty had rendered this earthly ſtar, ſhe was not the only object that attracted my attention ; for DONNA BLANCHE SOBBA, her mother, although nearly thirty
years.

years of age, justly disputed with her daughter the palm of beauty, and divided my admiration. BLANCHE was the widow of a Commissioner of Royal accounts, and lived with her daughter at PALERMO, in great credit and respectability.

CONCEIVING it right to appear like a younger brother accompanying his holy father in some charitable visit, I remained quite silent while we continued in the company of these ladies. But while I was meditating how to play with propriety a single character in these nightly scenes, I had unexpectedly an opportunity of representing a double part. The lovely looking BLANCHE, whose manners were infinitely more noble, and whose wit and vivacity were certainly not inferior to those of SEGNORA DALFA, while the Duke was engaged in close conversation with her charming daughter, desired me, under pretence of enjoying a conversation with me more uninterruptedly, to walk with her into another room, where placing herself on a sofa, she desired me to sit by her side. Our conversation must have been highly ludicrous, if the lady had not
been

been better acquainted with the *Spanish language* than I was with the *Italian*; for we should scarcely have understood each other's meaning; but fortunately BLANCHE spoke the Castilian tongue tolerably well, and commencing by expressions of sorrow that THOMAS was so cruelly tormented with the gout, discovered as much seeming sensibility for his sufferings as if she had been the cause of them: then suddenly changing both the tone of her voice and the subject of her conversation, and addressing me with a sprightly air—"My young friend," said she, "permit me to be your confidante: tell me how many conquests you have made at PALERMO."

"MADAM," replied I with great appearance of modesty, "you surely wish to laugh at me. The ladies of SICILY have, I am sure, too refined a taste to bestow a look upon a person so undeserving of their attention."

"You should entertain a more favourable opinion of yourself," rejoined BLANCHE. "You enjoy the advantages of a good person, and your merit is discernible notwithstanding

“withstanding your disguise. Besides, you
“are now of that happy age when men need
“only shew themselves to attract the atten-
“tion of the sex. Perhaps, unconscious of
“your power, you have already charmed
“the heart of some amiable Sicilian, whose
“bashful modesty restrains her from declar-
“ing her passion.”

“Why, if I could suppose this to be the
“case,” replied I smiling, “I should hum-
“bly hope the lady would pardon me, for
“treating with ingratitude a happiness I was
“ignorant of possessing.”

“Oh, you will soon be made acquainted
“with it,” replied BLANCHE, “she will
“break through restraint, inform you of
“your victory, and then it will remain with
“yourself to take advantage of it.”

BLANCHE pronounced these words in such
a soft tone of voice, as convinced me that my
youth had made a strong impression on her
mind, and that it only rested with me to per-
form the same part with the mother, that
my master was performing with her daugh-
ter. Inexperienced as I was, it was impossi-
ble to mistake her, and I felt an inclination
to

to pursue the point ; but my courage failed me, and the lady not chusing to go further on the first interview, the conclusion of the scene was put off until another opportunity.

DURING this time the delightful moments of love, which his Excellency passed with his young widow, rolled imperceptibly away, until the beams of Aurora began to twinkle on the distant horizon ; when, recollecting this most important part of my duty, I instantly announced the danger of approaching day, and sounded a retreat. The two lovers soon afterwards separated, not without regret, although they might have been very well contented with the evening.

IN bidding adieu to BLANCHE I pressed one of her fair hands with transport to my lips, in order to repair the affront my timidity had given to her charms ; and silently issuing from the mansion of these lovely widows, we reached THE PALACE without being seen.

CHAPTER THE SIXTEENTH.

The Conversation which passed the ensuing Morning between VANILLO and THOMAS. The ingenious Sentence which was passed by the Duke of OSSUNA, and the Consequences which that Sentence produced upon the future Fortunes of VANILLO.

HAVING retired to the apartment of THOMAS to unrobe, the Duke went immediately afterwards to his bed-chamber to sleep; and I also, although I had not so much occasion for repose, sought mine with the same intention.

ON the ensuing day, my first care was to visit my friend THOMAS, who, on seeing me, discovered great impatience to learn what had passed during our interview with the ladies on the preceeding evening, and I gave him, by his own desire, a circumstantial account of every thing. Being indeed by nature very little given to reserve, feeling myself under

too many obligations to him to conceal any thing from his knowledge, and urged by his particular anxiety to be informed of the manner in which I was received by BLANCHE, I related to him not merely the conversation that had passed between us, but expatiated much more at large upon the subject than I should have done, if I had been acquainted with the particular interest he had in it ; and, not finding in truth matter sufficiently splendid to do honour to my merit, even added to my narrations several fanciful decorations. I was then ignorant that THOMAS was deeply enamoured with this lady. It will be easily conceived that under such circumstances my new friend listened to my story with great displeasure. The strong terms indeed in which I described BLANCHE's tenderness towards me acted like deadly blows upon the poor creature's heart ; but I innocently attributed the grimaces and contortions he exhibited during the recital, to the pangs of the gout ; rather than to what in truth they were, the pangs of jealousy. To avoid discovery, however, he affected to feel the highest delight and satisfaction from those circumstances

cumstances in my narrative by which he suffered in reality the keenest pain. "I congratulate you, VANILLO," said he with a forced smile; "I give you joy on your having inspired the heart of so charming a woman with love. BLANCHE, though somewhat advanced in years, is still extremely amiable. I am delighted to find you please her. I exhort you to dismiss all timidity upon your next interview. Women in general are not inclined to condemn a lover for hastily seizing an occasion to be happy." But the jealous lover, while he was giving me this advice, well knew that he was able to prevent me from following it.

A FEW days afterwards I learned that he was my rival; and when the Duke next visited his lovely Baroness, THOMAS, although his health was far from being restored, chose to be his Excellency's companion.

PERCEIVING the important mistake I had committed, my mind foreboded every possible ill consequence. "Miserable young man," exclaimed I, "what have you done? What dæmon, the enemy of your
"prosperity,

“prosperity, has thus, by one fatal error,
“sunk you to perdition? Think not that
“even a friend can pardon the crime of be-
“ing beloved by his mistress. You must
“no longer expect the friendship of THO-
“MAS, or fancy that he will continue your
“MECÆNAS. Generous sentiments may per-
“haps prevent him from injuring you, but
“they will never urge him to do you any ser-
“vice.”

WHILE I reproached myself in this man-
ner for my youthful indiscretion, my rival,
although he observed a profound silence re-
specting his recent interview with his adored
BLANCHE, and never afterwards mentioned
her name in my hearing, maintained, to all
outward appearance, the same esteem and
friendship for me as before; for he not only
always received me with great cordiality; but
professed, as usual, the warmest friendship;
and even promised that I should in his stead oc-
casionally accompany his Excellency in cer-
tain nocturnal expeditions which he fre-
quently made, to learn the private senti-
ments of the inhabitants of PALERMO re-
specting his administration of the govern-
ment;

ment; for the Baronefs De CONCA was not always the cause of his nocturnal forties. This practice, which no Viceroy had ever before adopted, he performed by placing himself in the streets under various disguises, sometimes as a soldier, at other times as a sailor, at other times as a beggar, and entering into conversation with the populace, in which he provoked them by every means in his power to express their opinions, whether good or bad, of the manner in which he conducted the public affairs. Without enquiring whether this conduct be blameable or praise-worthy, it is sufficient for me to say, that one night when I accompanied the Duke, I should have gladly resigned the honour to my friend THOMAS; for, having joined a cluster of the lowest order, who had assembled to entertain themselves, the Duke thought proper to censure a particular measure of his own which he had then recently enforced, in order to hear what they would say on the subject, when instantly two or three of them, who perhaps knew him, fell upon us both and beat us about the head and stomach as if we had been two seditious brawlers

ers against the state ; and it was with the greatest difficulty that we made our escape. Of some of these adventures the Duke frequently formed many entertaining stories, but I never heard him mention this.

INDULGED however as I was in being permitted to accompany his Excellency on these secret and midnight expeditions, I was never permitted to accompany him to his mistress's house ; an office which his confidant THOMAS, whom jealousy seemed to have cured completely of the gout, always took special care to execute in his own person. Having however a much greater desire to preserve the friendship of the Valet de Chambre than to increase the good opinion of his mistress, the exclusion gave me no uneasiness ; and attaching myself to him more than ever, I was so assiduous, that if I did not in fact efface from his memory all recollection of the confidence I had so foolishly reposed in him, I found him at least to feign forgetfulness of it so well, that he seemed to increase in affection for me day after day ; and at length I fondly flattered myself, that, satisfied with having removed me from all opportunity

of

of seeing BLANCHE, he had nothing upon his mind against me.

WHILE I was contemplating my security on this subject, a young citizen of PALERMO accosted me one day in the street, saying, with a countenance of sorrow, "I in-
 " treat you, Sir, to pardon the liberty I take
 " in speaking to you ; but perceiving by
 " your dress that you are one of the Viceroy's
 " pages, I wish you to afford me, by a
 " quarter of an hour's conversation, an op-
 " portunity of communicating to you a mat-
 " ter of great importance ; if you can feel a
 " disposition to render a service to a deserv-
 " ing man, you will do me the favour to
 " follow me." Assuring him that he could not apply to a person more disposed than I was to afford pleasure to others, he conducted me to a house of rather an elegant structure, and introduced me into a chamber where lay a bed-ridden old man. "Sir," said the youth, as we entered the room, "there you behold an unfortunate father in
 " a situation that deserves your compassion.
 " Grief, which the treachery of a friend who
 " has robbed him of ten thousand crowns,
 VOL. I. I " has

“ has occasioned, is the cause of his malady.
“ We are both of us entirely ruined, unless
“ we can make interest with the Viceroy to
“ interfere in our behalf.”

“ You know very well,” replied I, “ that
“ his Excellency is easy of access ; that he is
“ humane, affable, and extremely patient in
“ listening to any complaints. Neverthe-
“ less, although you have no necessity for any
“ recommendation to him, I shall be happy
“ to afford you every good office in my pow-
“ er. I am, perhaps, the most favoured
“ of his pages. Tell me therefore the
“ particulars of this affair, and I will answer
“ that his Excellency will do you complete
“ justice.”

THE father and son thanked me for my kindness, and concluded their compliments by promising me a present of two hundred pistoles.

“ SOFTLY, gentlemen,” said I, “ and
“ permit me first to inform you, that all the
“ domestics of the Viceroy are forbidden to
“ receive the smallest gratuity from persons
“ they may serve, under the penalties of be-
“ ing not only severely punished, but im-
“ mediately

“mediately driven from the palace in disgrace.”

“THIS is too rigorous a law,” cried the old man. “How then shall I shew my gratitude ; for it is mortifying not to be able to acknowledge favours conferred, except by vain expressions of the sentiments they create.”

“A SPANISH benefactor expects no other reward,” replied I haughtily. “Let us quit this unnecessary discourse, and relate to me the circumstances of the treachery which has caused your ruin.”

THE old man began accordingly in the following manner :

“MY name is GIANNETINO. I am the son of a Counsellor at Law, who, after a laborious life passed in the practice of his profession, died rather poor than rich : a circumstance which can only be attributed to the excessive disinterestedness and scrupulous integrity of his conduct. Subsequent to my father’s decease, I had the good fortune to marry a widow with a jointure of a thousand crowns, and by this union was enabled to live at PALERMO

“ with elegance and ease. I have still the
“ reputation of being in good circum-
“ stances, but I shall soon be classed among
“ the most miserable of its citizens; and, if
“ I lose the suit which has been entered
“ against me to-day, I shall be truly wretched
“ indeed. The cause of it is as follows:
“ About six months ago CHARLES AZARI-
“ NI, PETER SCANNATI, and JEROM AVEL-
“ LINO, three merchants, all of them my inti-
“ mate friends, came to this house, accompa-
“ nied by a public notary, and, bringing
“ with them the sum of six thousand crowns
“ in gold, informed me, that they had
“ agreed to make me the depositary of
“ this money, which they intended to ex-
“ port whenever an advantageous opportu-
“ nity happened. Delivering it into my
“ possession, they desired me to give them
“ an undertaking in writing, that I would
“ not deliver it, or any part of it, to any one
“ of them, except in the presence of the
“ other two; and I accordingly entered into
“ this engagement by executing a document
“ which the notary prepared for this pur-
“ pose. We carefully preserved the mo-
“ ney

“ney thus deposited for the parties concerned
 “whenever its delivery should be required.
 “But a few nights ago JEROM AVELLINO
 “knocked loudly at my door, and, on its being
 “opened, hastily entered my room in great
 “agitation. “Signior GIANNETINO,” said
 “he, “if I break in upon the hours of
 “repose, you must excuse the interruption
 “from the importance of the business which
 “occasions it. AZARINI, SCANNATI, and
 “myself, have learnt that a Genoese vessel
 “richly laden is just arrived at MESSINA, from
 “which, if dispatch be used, we have an op-
 “portunity of deriving great advantage, and
 “have therefore resolved to employ the ten
 “thousand crowns which are in your hands.
 “Make haste, if you please, and deliver
 “them to me; my horse is waiting at the
 “door; and I burn with impatience to
 “reach MESSINA.”—“Signior AVELLINO,”
 “said I, “you seem to have forgot that
 “I cannot part with them unless”——“Oh!
 “no, no,” interrupted he, “I very well re-
 “collect that it is expressed in the agree-
 “ment, that you are not to deliver them
 “unless the three parties be present; but

“AZARINI and SCANNATI are ill, and
“could not accompany me to your house;
“they however absolve you from that con-
“dition, and desire that you will deliver
“me the money immediately: every mo-
“ment is of consequence: come, you have
“nothing to fear: you have long known
“me: I have always maintained the cha-
“racter of an honest man, and I hope you
“will not, by any unjust suspicion of my in-
“tegrity, disturb the friendship which has sub-
“sisted between us, and be the cause of our
“losing the present advantageous opportunity.
“Do, do make haste,” continued he, “deliver
“me the money instantly, or I am fearful I
“shall be too late at MESSINA.” A secret
“apprehension of danger, which Heaven, no
“doubt, inspired for my safety, made me he-
“sitate a long time; but AVELLINO, the
“villain AVELLINO, supplicated, pressed,
“and tormented me in such a way that my
“resistance at length failed, and I foolishly
“delivered to him the deposit; with which
“he immediately disappeared.”

THE old man, as he uttered these words,
recollecting his imprudence, burst into a
flood

flood of tears. My heart melted at his distress. "Do not afflict yourself," said I, endeavouring to console him; "his Excellency the Viceroy has much in his power. AVELLINO will have great difficulty to escape his vengeance."

"AVELLINO, alas!" said the son of the old citizen, "is already at a great distance; and what is more afflicting, no sooner were AZARINI and SCANNATI informed of the trick their associate had played, than they instantly commenced a suit against my father for the money confided to his care. This cause will be heard in the course of two days, and my poor father, in all probability, will be condemned to restore ten thousand crowns to the complainants."

"THE cause is not yet decided," exclaimed I; "and I have no doubt that the Viceroy, upon being informed of the facts and circumstances, which he shall be this very day, will chuse to try this cause himself."

I MADE a faithful report of this case to his Excellency, who, after great attention, said to me, smiling, "I shall give such a judgment

“ in this case as will make some noise in the
“ world.” On the succeeding day he summoned the parties to appear before him ; and when the plaintiffs had pleaded their cause, he addressed the defendant : “ GI-
“ ANNETINO,” said he, “ what answer have
“ you to make to this demand ?”—“ None,
“ Sir,” replied GIANNETINO, elevating his
shoulders and resting his chin upon his breast.
“ He is right, Gentlemen,” replied the
Duke, addressing himself to AZARINI and
SCANNATI ; “ he has no answer to make
“ to your charge. He acknowledges all
“ that you have said, and is ready to pay
“ you the ten thousand crowns which were
“ deposited in his hands ; but as he cannot,
“ by the terms of the agreement, deliver
“ them unless the three parties be actually
“ present, do you bring AVELLINO into
“ Court, and you shall have the money.”

THE numerous auditory which attended this trial no sooner heard the judgment, than the Court resounded with peals of applause, and it became the subject of conversation every where throughout Italy.

GIANNETINO

GIANNETINO and his son, who thought their ruin certain, overjoyed to find themselves delivered from their embarrassment, gratefully invited me to dine with them. After dinner they spread upon the table the two hundred pistoles which they had promised to give me, and which I had refused to accept. What a sight was this to me ! They pressed me to accept of them, protesting that no person whatever should know it. Human fortitude is extremely weak. They urged my acceptance of them in such various ways, and used so many arguments on the subject, that, at length, finding it impossible to refuse, I reconciled all difficulties, by putting the purse in which they were inclosed into my pocket. Recollecting, however, that the Duke was averse to the servants of his house making a traffic of their favours, I felt great uneasiness. But I trusted that this single instance of misconduct would never reach his ear, and I am persuaded that the two GIANNETINOS would never have divulged the secret, if his Excellency had not sent for the father three days afterwards, and asked him, in my hearing, whether he had

not made me some present. The old man, incapable of falsehood, and unwilling to discover the truth for fear of doing me an injury, was exceedingly embarrassed by the question, while I felt the ground tremble under my feet. "Conceal nothing from me," said the Duke with a fierce and menacing aspect. "I command you, upon pain of my displeasure, to tell me what testimony of gratitude VANILLO has received from your hands."

THE citizen, well knowing that the Viceroy was a man before whom it was dangerous to equivocate, acknowledged that he had given me two hundred pistoles, adding, by way of excuse for me, that they had been forced upon me by himself and his son.

"I do not blame you," replied the Duke, "for having offered him the money; but, knowing my delicacy and express orders upon this subject, he should not have taken it. It is an offence which I cannot forgive." Having expressed himself to this effect, he turned towards me, and inquired what I had done with the money. "It is," replied I, "in my chamber, in the
same

“same state as when I received it.”—“Well, “then,” said he, “fetch it here immediately.” I obeyed, and when I returned with my purse, he delivered it to one of his Gentlemen in waiting, saying, “Go and “distribute these pistoles among the poor, “for they alone ought to benefit by the indiscretion of GIANNETINO. But as for “you, VANILLO,” continued he, “you may “retire whenever you please; you are no “longer in my service; and I forbid you “for ever hereafter to enter the Palace “gates.” Throwing myself at the feet of my offended master, I endeavoured to excite his compassion. Useless servility! He darted a look of furious anger on me, and walked away.

DROWNED in tears, I ran to the apartment of THOMAS, and related to him the circumstances of my disgrace; and I must do him the justice to say, that he not only seemed afflicted by my misfortune, but promised me his endeavours to appease the anger of the Viceroy. Certain it is, that no person could have interposed with greater probability of success, and perhaps I should have

been restored to favour if he had made the attempt; but, more jealous than generous, he felt a secret pleasure in my expulsion, and took good care that I should derive no advantage from his intercession, although he positively assured me that he had used every effort to procure my pardon. "I represented to his Excellency," said he, "every thing that suggested itself to me in your favour. I shewed as much anxiety for you as if you had been my own son. In short, I neglected no means to re-establish you in his good opinion; but all my endeavours were fruitless: he is inexorable. He even told me that he had been too indulgent in ordering only a simple dismissal from his service, for that your crime deserved a more rigorous chastisement. My dear VANILLO," added the perfidious THOMAS, embracing me tenderly, "you cannot conceive the mortification I feel in not having been able to move his Excellency upon this occasion, notwithstanding the ascendancy which I possess over his mind." And this artful old valet-de-chambre, the better to insinuate that he was speaking sincerely,

cerely, and had always felt an affection for me, offered me a purse containing about twenty pistoles, which I took without hesitation, having lost every hope of being restored to my station under the Viceroy.

PREVIOUS to my departure from the Palace, I went to bid adieu to QUIVELLO, who was already acquainted with my disgrace. "My friend VANILLO," said he at a distance, the moment he saw me, "I know all. His Excellency, whom I have just left, has himself related to me every thing that has passed. I have endeavoured in vain to persuade him to forgive you. I could not even prevail upon him to revoke the sentence he has passed. I lament it most sincerely!"

WE wept bitterly on taking leave of each other. But I must not forget that, to moderate my affliction, he gave me at the same time from his Excellency, a mitigation of a hundred pistoles, with which I returned from the Palace more than half reconciled to the adversity of my fate.

CHAPTER THE SEVENTEENTH.

By what Accident and with what Design VANILLO became an Apothecary; and the happy Effect which a quid pro quo produced on his fortunes.

ON leaving the Palace of the Viceroy, the first person I met was the son of GIANNETINO. “I was coming,” said he, “to request of you to seek an asylum in my father’s house; justice requires that we should be sensible to the misfortunes of a man who has ruined himself by his endeavours to render us service.”

WITHOUT waiting for a second invitation, I suffered the youth to conduct me to his father’s house, where I was received by both the father and the son with every testimony of gratitude and esteem.

I HAD lived almost a fortnight with GIANNETINO, when the generous old man said to me, “My dear GONZALES, I consider you as my second son, and am anxious to procure you a permanent establishment in

“PALERMO.

“ PALERMO. There is in this city an old
 “ Apothecary, who is not only my near re-
 “ lation, but, what is more important, my
 “ intimate friend ; and I have conceived the
 “ idea of placing you under his care. Phar-
 “ macy is a science of which you will soon
 “ acquire a complete knowledge, and you
 “ may then marry his only daughter VIO-
 “ LETTA, who will make you an excellent
 “ wife. She is certainly not the most per-
 “ fect beauty ; but she is sufficiently pleasing,
 “ and has the reputation of being the most
 “ sensible girl in PALERMO. Besides, she
 “ will, at the death of her father, possess a
 “ good fortune. Consider of this proposal,”
 added he, “ and if matrimony be not disa-
 “ greeable to you, and you have no objec-
 “ tion to the business of an Apothecary, I
 “ will immediately make overtures to my
 “ friend in your favour.”

REQUESTING GIANNETINO would allow
 me four-and-twenty hours to reflect upon
 this proposal, I carefully examined all its
 advantages and disadvantages in the best
 manner I was able. The idea of making
 juleps and decoctions sometimes disgusted
 me,

me, but at others *Pharmacy* appeared to me to be far preferable to *Surgery*. “The reason of my dislike to Surgery,” said I, “was the necessity I was under of blunting all the feelings of the heart, in order to perform its cruel operations; but that is not the case with an Apothecary; he is under no necessity of being cruel in making his salves and compounds.” Having examined the subject in every point of view, I at length determined to accede to GIANNETINO’s proposal. This generous Sicilian, the moment he received my answer, applied to the old Apothecary, who made no objection to his scheme, and I was immediately received into his house.

My future father-in-law, whose name was ANDREW POTOSCHI, was a man profoundly skilled in all the mysteries of his profession; an excellent chemist, and an accurate observer of the phænomena of nature: he had made many curious discoveries; and possessed secrets in the science of Pharmacology of extreme importance to the fair sex; particularly a cosmetic of his own invention, which restored a decayed skin to its pristine bloom;

bloom; and a pomade which effectually dispelled the wrinkles of old age. As he intended to relinquish his business in my favour whenever I should espouse VIOLETTA, he instructed me, with great diligence, in all the mysteries of his art, and I soon learned to compound drugs and administer clysters with great art and dexterity.

POTOSCHI soon discovered that I should make in a short time a skilful Pharmacopolist; and I must say that he spared no pains to teach me this profound art; nor did I neglect to profit by his scientific instructions.

I FANCY, in this place, that I hear the jocose reader say, "Master VANILLO, you do not disclose the whole truth. The real cause of this zealous application to the business may however be easily discovered. Beauty was to be the reward, and it impelled you to industry."

I ACKNOWLEDGE it: the amiable VIOLETTA appeared to me the richest prize that could be proposed to animate my labours in the study of Pharmacy. She was between twenty-two and twenty-three years of age; elegant

elegant in her person, accomplished in her mind, and, what is very extraordinary in Sicily, where women in general are boldly coquetish, extremely modest and reserved in her manners. She had been educated, since the death of her mother, which happened about ten years before, under the eye of an old Governess who still superintended her conduct. But the terms on which I was introduced to the family afforded me the opportunity of conversing with her whenever I pleased. Our behaviour however to each other never exceeded the bounds of distant respect on my side, and modest timidity on hers; for, to speak the truth, I had too much diffidence to ask the question, and she had too much virtue to urge me to it.

THE merit of POROSCHI was so extensive that he was more resorted to than any other Apothecary in PALERMO. Patients sent for him from all parts; but as it was impossible for him to attend personally on them all, he frequently sent me in his stead; and I was considered in the families which I visited as his confidential assistant. One day, while POROSCHI was absent, a woman came into the

the shop and asked for the master of the house. "Madam," said I, "he is gone into the city; but I am his representative; and you may safely entrust me with your commands."

"If that be the case," replied she, "my mistress the Baroness DE CONCA desires the Doctor will call upon her this evening."

"VERY well," said I, "you may depend upon it that he will not fail."

UPON which the girl dropped a low curtsy, and without staying to gossip a single moment, ABIGAIL as she was, left the shop.

THE Doctor, who had been to leave certain powders at the house of an old Judge, who was to be married in two days to a young lady of fifteen, returned home in a few minutes afterwards.

"SIR," said I, "the Baroness DE CONCA desires your attendance in the evening."

POTOSCHI smiled at these words in a way that seemed mysterious, and the terms upon which we lived together were so familiar, that I did not hesitate a moment to ask him the reason of his smiling so significantly

significantly when the name of the Baroness was mentioned.

“ My dear son-in-law,” said he, for this was my usual appellation, “ although you
“ was one of the Viceroy’s pages, I perceive
“ you are ignorant that the Baroness is his
“ mistress. Take care,” continued he, “ not
“ to reveal this secret. The secrecy of an
“ Apothecary, as well as that of a Surgeon,
“ ought to be proof against every tempta-
“ tion; but between ourselves, and for the
“ sake of entertainment, there is no objec-
“ tion to disclose what we know.”

To induce POROSCHI to continue the conversation, I affected an entire ignorance on the subject, and my future father-in-law went on thus: “ I have known the Baroness
“ DE CONCA,” said he, “ from her earliest
“ infancy, as well as DONNA BLANCHE SORBA
“ her mother, and have attended them
“ as their Apothecary for many years. It
“ was I who furnished them with medicines
“ for the disorders of which their husbands
“ died; both of them rely upon me with
“ implicit confidence; and they have good
“ reason, for I afford both of them very ef-
“ fectual

“fential services. BLANCHE, who is by
 “nature as black as a beetle, and covered
 “with pimples, possesses by art the com-
 “plexion of a cherub : thanks to the lo-
 “tion and pomade which I shall teach you
 “to make ! The labour of three hours at her
 “toilet renders her person so different in its
 “appearance, that she is completely meta-
 “morphosed. It is no wonder that Signior
 “THOMAS, the Duke of OSSUNA’s fa-
 “vourite, makes her his idol.”

“It appears,” said I, “that this lady is
 “under great obligations to you indeed.”

“HER daughter,” replied he, “is not un-
 “der less. The Baroness, young as she is, la-
 “bours under certain infirmities which
 “oblige her to have a perpetual issue in one
 “of her legs, and by my care it is kept so
 “clean as to set the nicest sense of smelling
 “completely at defiance. She also is equal-
 “ly beholden to both my lotion and my
 “pomade. In short, if the Baroness has
 “really charmed the Viceroy, she is more
 “indebted to my art than to her own na-
 “ture for her success.”

THE

THE Doctor's discourse convinced me that my friend THOMAS's attachment was not very enviable; and while it reconciled me to the indiscretion I had been guilty of in disclosing my conversation, and extinguished in my bosom all desire of becoming his rival, it filled my mind with malignant joy. "If," said I, "I had concealed the particulars of our nocturnal conference, I might, by the delusion of vanity, have been at this moment desperately enamoured with a black face under a mask of ointment, instead of being, as at present, upon the verge of matrimony with the charming VIOLETTA, whose beauty is not derived from her father's art."

THAT my deserts might enable me to gather this fairest flower in PALERMO, I worked night and day in the shop, and surprised her father by the rapid progress I made in a profession which in reality has nothing to do with magic, however the barbarous and diabolical names of the drugs and compounds may favour the idea.

I HAD already acquired the art of making every species of composition, when two prescriptions

scriptions were sent in from DR. ARISCADOR, a Navarrais Physician, who at that time passed for a second HIPPOCRATES in PALERMO. There was not a Baron, a Count, or a Marquis, that would die contentedly by any other hand. These prescriptions were calculated to produce very opposite effects; for the one of them was intended for a Counsellor, who had acquired a defluention of the lungs by elaborate pleading; and the other for a Divine who had contracted a violent pleurisy by running too precipitately after church preferment. Having carefully mixed the drugs and other articles, of which these respective medicines were ordered to be composed, I carried them to the houses of the two patients; but by a most melancholy mistake, like a stupid fellow as I was, I accidentally delivered the potion which was intended for THE ADVOCATE to THE DIVINE; and that which was intended for THE DIVINE to THE ADVOCATE; and, still more unfortunately, I did not recollect that I had made this egregious blunder until the patients had drained their respective phials to the last drop.

DEXTEROUS

DEXTEROUS as I may be at concealing truth under a varnish of falsehood, I could not excuse this gross and dangerous act of carelessness even to myself; and being certain that both these unfortunate men must soon unavoidably be, if they were not already, numbered among the dead, I returned home in the most painful agitation, bitterly lamenting the misfortune of their prescriptions having fallen into my hands. An old and hackneyed practitioner would have continued calmly in the shop, without being the least embarrassed by the mistake he had made; but I had not yet had sufficient experience in Pharmacy to indurate my heart.

I WAS so perturbed by this dreadful event, that POROSCHI, observing my chagrin, asked me with great concern what was the matter; and, urged by the compunction I felt, I candidly confessed the crime into which my negligence had betrayed me. Instead however of expressing sorrow or commiseration for this fatal disaster, he instantly burst into a fit of laughter, and told me that it was easy to be seen by the excess of my affliction, that I was yet a mere novice in the profession.

“sion. It is ridiculous, my dear child,” continued he, “to feel so sensibly the common accidents of trade. You must learn not to take such misfortunes as these so much to heart. Are mankind, and especially the members of our profession, infallible? Is it not a common saying, that such a one has *blundered like an Apothecary?* a saying which presupposes that we frequently make mistakes. Believe me truly,” added he, “I have made many worse mistakes in the course of my life; but I never thought it worth while to go to Rome to confess them.”

“But tell me SIGNIOR POTOSCHI,” said I, “you who know all the properties of the drugs, tell me whether you think the two gentlemen I have caused to take them be, in your opinion, alive or dead?”

“I know nothing about that,” replied POTOSCHI, “I am not so well acquainted with the properties of drugs as to be certain of the effects they may produce. But, at all events, do not permit your fears to betray your guilt; we can boldly assert that we precisely followed the direction of the

“ Physician in making up the prescriptions,
“ and then, by concealing the change that
“ has been made, if these patients should
“ die, which I confess is extremely proba-
“ ble, DR. ARISCADOR will bear the whole
“ blame ; which indeed is but common jus-
“ tice ; for if they should miraculously live,
“ he will of course have all the honour.”

WE resolved accordingly to place these two victims to the account of the Physician, whose reputation, luckily for us, very much favoured our design.

THE ensuing day DR. ARISCADOR came into the shop, with visible emotion, to announce, as we conceived, the sudden death of his unfortunate patients ; but on the contrary he brought us the most agreeable news !

“ MY friends,” cried he, “ I cannot con-
“ tain my joy, or rather my transport ;
“ the two last prescriptions I sent you ought
“ to be consecrated in the temple of *Æscu-*
“ *lapius*, as two grand specifics, for *the pleu-*
“ *risy* and a *defluction from the lungs*. Can
“ you credit what I tell you ? Both the
“ Lawyer and the Divine had no sooner
“ taken their medicines than they were al-
“ most

“ most instantly relieved. They slept profoundly the whole night, and found themselves, when they awoke this morning, perfectly recovered. Oh unheard of prodigy ! The fame of these marvellous cures already spreads like wildfire throughout the city. What honours shall I not gain in having so rapidly subdued two such mortal diseases ? My dear friends,” continued he, “ you ought also to rejoice in this new victory ; for you have contributed towards it by the fidelity with which you prepared the medicines, and a portion of that glory which must shine with so much lustre upon me will be reflected in some degree upon yourselves ! ”

THE Doctor was so overjoyed at the idea of his extraordinary success, that he could not discontinue his self-congratulations upon the occasion ; while we, who were in the secret, with difficulty refrained from laughing in his face ; but the profound veneration which Apothecaries owe to the more exalted characters of Physicians, saved us at the moment from the guilt of such irreverence.

CHAPTER THE EIGHTEENTH.

The tragical Accident which followed this ludicrous Adventure, and the extreme Peril in which it involved both VANILLO and POTOSCHI.

THIS event, however, was soon afterwards followed by another which did not terminate so happily.

THE Baroness DE CONCA, being suddenly seized with a violent fit of illness, sent, as usual, for the celebrated POTOSCHI, who, not being able to discover the nature of her complaint, called in DR. ARISCADOR to her assistance. The Physician, although he knew as little of the cause of her complaint as the Apothecary, ventured to give a decided opinion of it, and prescribed accordingly certain medicines which POTOSCHI carefully prepared with his own hands, and gave them to me to carry to the patient, whose appearance, on entering her room, filled my mind with apprehensions for her safety; but I hoped

hoped that the judgment of a young Apothecary might be less infallible than the prognostics of an old Physician.

THE mother of the Baroneſs was kneeling at her bedſide in great agitation, and was ſo far from having an opportunity to recollect me, that ſhe never once turned her eyes from the object of her attention. I am ſure, on my part, that if I had not known it was BLANCHE, I ſhould never have diſcovered her through the ſlovenly negligence of dreſs in which ſhe appeared. Abandoned entirely to the care which maternal tenderneſs required her to take of her daughter, ſhe had, if I may be allowed the expreſſion, let her charms run fallow; and ſhewed moſt clearly the want in which ſhe ſtood of our pomade. Approaching the patient, I adminiſtered the medicine, and returned immediately home, where we ſoon received information that the patient having, almoſt immediately after the mixture was taken, fallen into a deep ſleep, awaked in a ſhort time in ſhricks of direful agony, and at length expired in her mother's arms.

BOTH POROSCHI and myself were much afflicted by this event; not indeed at the loss of the patient, but at the unpleasant consequences that might possibly result from it. The public voice is always ready to decry the profession, when a patient dies immediately upon the application of the medicine; and we were extremely apprehensive for our credit with the world. The first arrow indeed is always aimed at the Physician, but it is seldom that the Apothecary escapes unhurt. We should indeed have been happy if the loss of reputation had been all which threatened us upon this occasion; but the tide of our misfortunes ran to a higher mark, and on the ensuing day we were both arrested by order of the Viceroy, and conducted to separate prisons, where we were informed of the cause of our arrest.

THE body of the Baronefs, it seems, had been opened by order of the Viceroy, and it clearly appeared that poison had been the cause of her death. His Excellency, informed of this fact, and being anxious to discover the perpetrator of this horrid deed, had thought it proper to secure the persons who prepared

prepared and administered the potion. The following day we were both examined. However innocent a prisoner accused of so diabolical a crime may be, the testimony of a clear conscience is scarcely sufficient entirely to quell the perturbations of his mind, and enable him to appear in the presence of his Judge with tranquillity and indifference. POTOSCHI, when under examination, proved the truth of this observation ; for, instead of attesting my innocence while he was justifying his own, he assured the Court that he had made up the prescription with fidelity, but that he could not answer for my having carried the identical medicine to the patient. It is true, that on my examination I returned him the same compliment, by asseverating in the most positive manner that I had delivered the very same medicine he had prepared, but that I could not answer whether he had used the drugs which the Physician had prescribed. Thus each of us endeavoured to seek safety by insinuating the other's guilt.

THE Viceroy, who was very anxious to develope the mystery of this affair, being dis-

satisfied with our depositions, and conceiving that by taking an examination himself he might, by the subtlety of his questions, draw from us the secret he wished to know, came to the prison and ordered us to be brought before him. Having never seen me since the day of my exile from the Palace, or even heard what was become of me, his astonishment when I appeared before him in the Council Chamber is not to be expressed.

“How! is it you, VANILLO?” he exclaimed. “Is it you, unhappy youth, who have deprived the Baronesa of her life?”

He immediately ordered every person, even the Apothecary himself, to retire from the room; and when we were alone, he continued his discourse to me in these words: “You know the reasons which induce me to avenge the death of this lady; and perhaps are acquainted with the concealed villain who has taken her life. Name him instantly, and a free pardon shall be your reward.”

I CALMLY replied, that if the Baronesa had really been poisoned, she must have been poisoned before I administered the

the medicine; that I had not devoted my time to the study of Pharmacy for the purpose of poisoning people; and that I was totally ignorant of the cause of her death."

"SINCE mercy will not induce you to reveal this secret," exclaimed the Viceroy, "we will try whether severity will not conquer your silence."

ALARMED by this threat, and as if I had been upon the point of receiving the torture, I threw myself at his knees. "Sire," cried I in a flood of tears, "take pity on your unhappy Page. Can you, who are the protector of innocence, condemn to cruel torments one who can give you no information? If you were to cut me into pieces you would not be one step forwarder. Can I tell you what I do not know?"

HAPPILY for me I had a judge whose penetration was profound; he saw that I was not guilty; and the conversation he afterwards had with POTOSCHI convinced him, that although the medicine we prepared might have been the final cause of her death, we at least were not the poisoners: but, al-

though he no longer threatened me with the torture, he gave no orders for my enlargement; and I and the Apothecary were continued in prison for the longer space of fifteen days, at the end of which we were set at liberty.

RESUMING the business of the shop, our attention was principally occupied by the ladies who resorted to this fountain of youth and beauty, among whom *BLANCHE* was not the least frequent; for *POTOSCHI* continued to administer to her his lotion and pomade in great quantities.

THIS lady one day held a conversation with him which must not be silently passed over. “*SIGNIOR POTOSCHI*,” said she, “you cannot conceive the mortification I feel for the sufferings you endured on account of my daughter’s death. If the Vice-roy had followed my advice, you would have avoided the ignominy of so odious and unfounded an accusation. The Baroness, it is true, was poisoned; but, what occasion had he to give himself so much trouble to discover the perpetrator of the crime? He need only to have recollected

“ the

“the young Circassian, of whom he was
“once enamoured, and who died a violent
“death. Her murder was attributed to the
“jealousy of his wife, and he might have
“found at the same source the assassin of my
“daughter. The deed was perpetrated at
“the instigation of the Dutchess, by means
“of a female domestic, who left my service
“three days afterwards. The Duke,” continued BLANCHE, “is now so completely
“convinced of this fact, that he has dropped
“all further enquiry, lest he should learn
“more than he wishes to know.” Certain
it is, that all investigation into this affair
funk very suddenly to rest.

A MAN who is discharged from prison, although completely purged of the crime he was falsely accused of, cannot avoid thinking that the world squints at him with an awkward eye. At least I imagined people did so at me. The idea funk so deeply into my mind, that I could not live in PALERMO with any pleasure. To complete my disgust, it was only necessary for me to lose the affection of VIOLETTA, for whom I entertained a real regard; and in a short time I had

good reason to be dissatisfied with her conduct.

A young officer of the Inquisition became my rival, and, happily for me, rendered his addresses agreeable to VIOLETTA; I say happily for me, for if she had unfortunately given me the preference, my rival, in revenge, might easily have procured me a place in one of the dungeons of the Inquisition, where I might possibly have remained until this hour.

I SHEWED upon this occasion that I was one of those pertinacious lovers who resolve to surmount every obstacle. The moment I discovered that VIOLETTA was inclined to sacrifice me to her new gallant, I consigned her and all the drugs in her father's shop to — THE DEVIL; and, without bidding adieu to any person, I repaired to the Port; where finding a Genoese vessel ready to depart for Leghorn, I took my passage on board her, and quitted PALERMO.

CHAPTER THE NINETEENTH.

VANILLO, on his Passage to LEGHORN, gains the Friendship of a young Gentleman who conducts him to PISA. The Union in which they lived together, and the Cause of their Separation.

HAVING no particular reason for going to LEGHORN rather than to any other place, but being unable, after the repeated mortifications I had received, to reside any longer at PALERMO, my only object was a change of scene. During the voyage, I formed an acquaintance with a young gentleman from PISA, whose name was FERRAIRI, and who was then returning home from a visit he had been making to his relations at MONTREAL, but particularly to an aunt whose wealth he expected to inherit.

As the honorary Page of a Viceroy might fairly put himself upon an equality with a private gentleman, I engaged in easy and familiar conversation with my new associate,
who

who soon convinced me that he possessed an excellent understanding. Mutually pleased with each other's manners, a warm attachment immediately took place; and, to cement our rising friendship, we interchanged assurances of esteem and confidence, in which it was impossible that he could be more sincere on his part, than I was on mine. Conscious, however, that *gentlemen* always despise persons of low and vulgar extraction, it was not without reason that I boldly assumed with FERRAIRI the character of a man of family; for, had I acquainted him with my real condition, he would probably have disdained to converse with me; but, taking me for the descendant of a noble stock, he yielded without the least restraint to the predilection he felt in my favour.

ON our arrival at LEGHORN, we found it impossible to quit each other's company. "We will not separate," said FERRAIRI; "you shall go with me to PISA, where you shall continue as long as you please:" and he repeated the invitation with such pressing importunity, that I found it impossible to refuse his request. We accordingly proceeded together

together toward PISA, where he assured me I should find a comfortable residence, which he would render as agreeable as possible by the variety of pleasures he proposed to procure; and, to do him justice, he took so much pains to render my visit pleasant and satisfactory, that I passed a month at his mansion with infinite delight. Fearful of trespassing any longer on his time, I announced my intention to depart; but, instead of suffering me to leave him, he reproached me with impatience to abandon a friend who, he hoped I was convinced, entertained for me the most unfeigned affection. "Why should you quit me?" said he: "You have frequently assured me that you are happy in my company; I am equally so in yours; and I possess a fortune sufficiently ample to maintain us both. Continue therefore your abode in this house; and we will live together with fraternal fondness."

PENETRATED by these affectionate expressions, I determined, from feelings of gratitude, to live entirely at his expence, since he so ardently requested it. I was even forced,

forced, for the sake of quiet, to suffer him to clothe me from head to feet at his own cost. In short, to accommodate myself to his disposition, I had the complaisance to submit to all his inclinations. The acquisition of so firm a friend obliterated all recollection of my misfortunes from my mind ; or rather, I considered, from the present situation of my affairs, my fortune made, although mature reflection might have convinced me that a friendship so warm and urgent is seldom of long duration.

WHILE we were thus enjoying the pleasures of mutual friendship, FERRAIRI became deeply enamoured with a young lady of high birth, great beauty, and exemplary virtue, who resided in the neighbourhood : and this passion proved in the end fatal to our friendship.

THE lovely ENGRACIA, for that was the name of the lady, had engaged his affections in so violent a degree, that all his former protestations, though most solemnly made, of continuing in a state of celibacy, vanished from his recollection ; and, after paying his addresses to her for a short time, they were married.

married. This change of situation, however, was so far from decreasing his attentions to me, even from the first moments of his marriage, that, on the contrary, his affection seemed to increase, and he requested his wife to entertain the same respect for me as for himself.

“ENGRACIA,” said he to her in my presence, “GONZALES is my particular friend ; “ if I am dear to you, shew him, by the “ kindest attention, that you are willing “ to adopt the same sentiments which I entertain in his favour.”

ENGRACIA, to please her husband, not only promised, but kept her word. She omitted no occasion of saying the handsomest things of me, and of giving me proofs of her civility and attention. But still there appeared to be something in her manners that was not natural. Jealous of the confidence her husband reposed in me, she hated me secretly in her heart ; and at length her aversion attained to such maturity that she resolved, at all events, to drive me from PISA.

THE scheme she adopted to carry this resolution into effect is of too singular a kind to be omitted.

SIGNIOR GONZALES," said she to me one day when we were alone, "it is necessary that I should confide to your good sense a secret in which you are materially interested, and on which depends the future happiness of my life. I feel a growing inclination to love you. It alarms me. I have endeavoured in vain to conquer my feelings. You fatally triumph over all the efforts which a sense of virtue and duty have induced me to make against them. It is from you alone that I can hope for safety. Fly instantly from a house the tranquillity of which your presence destroys. I conjure you by the rights of hospitality, and still more by the obligations of that friendship which you owe to my husband, fly from me. The avowal I have made to you of my weakness commands you to quit PISA immediately ; for I am sure you have too much integrity to run any risque of dishonouring your friend."

DUPED by this artifice, I really fancied that she was enamoured with my merit, and that, to prevent the consequences of this too tender passion, she felt it her duty to request me to retire. I should, however, if the affection I felt for her husband had not been as sincere as it was ardent, most probably have followed the example of PARIS; but, instead of running away with my charming hostess, I bid her an eternal adieu. Escaping unperceived from the house the ensuing morning, I left her to fabricate such a story to FERRAIRI upon the subject of my departure, as she should think most proper.

BUT I have since been informed, that, in order to afford him some consolation, she told him that I had fallen in love with her; that I had declared to her my guilty passion; and that, upon her refusing to comply with my desires, and threatening to reveal the matter to her husband, I had decamped in the vexation of having made a fruitless attempt upon her virtue.

CHAPTER THE TWENTIETH.

VANILLO meets, three Miles from PISA, with two Genoese who were going to FLORENCE. He joins company with them, and is induced by Curiosity to visit a celebrated Necromancer.

DIRECTING my course towards FLORENCE, mounted upon a scurvy pack-horse, and extremely contented with my person, when I reflected that women drove me from their presence, to avoid the danger of loving me, I overtook, before I had proceeded three miles, two travellers much better mounted than I was; with whom I entered into conversation; and being informed that they were going to FLORENCE, I requested permission to accompany them; to which they acceded with the usual expressions of politeness; and we became, accordingly, fellow-travellers on the road.

WE took up our abode for the night at SAN MINIATO, at an inn extremely well provided with every species of accommoda-

tion;

tion; and the Landlord, who, having lived for sometime at PARMA with a German Cardinal, was an excellent cook, providing us an excellent supper, we indulged ourselves in great gaiety and good humour during the repast; for, I was in fine spirits, and my companions on their parts convinced me that they were no enemies to mirth and pleasantry. They informed me that they were Genoese.

“I AM a travelling Jeweller,” said one of them, “and I have unfortunately a wife who gives me every reason to complain of her conduct.”

“I HAVE the happiness to be a bachelor,” said the other; “but my father, who is extremely old, extremely rich, and extremely avaricious, seems to have an objection to die; for he enjoys, notwithstanding his old age, such astonishing health, that when he leaves the world I shall have no other occasion for his money than to buy spectacles and crutches.”

THE Landlord, who happened to be present during this conversation, addressed the Genoese. “If you are anxious, Gentlemen,

“to know when the one will be released
“from *his wife*, and the other from *his father*,
“there is, in the vicinity of this place, a
“learned Necromancer who will inform
“you.”

ON our bursting into a fit of laughter at this idea, the Landlord assumed a very serious countenance, and gravely assured us that the magician he spoke of was a very profound cabalist, and he pledged himself to name more than twenty Gentlemen who had consulted him, and experienced the truth of his extraordinary predictions. “For example,” said he: “Only six months ago, an old Merchant, who had a young wife whom he thought barren, consulted this able man, whether he was doomed to die without children; the Necromancer assured him that his wife would be brought to bed within the year; and, about eight days ago, she actually produced him a son.”

THIS story, the accomplishment of which was probably produced by some young friend to the old Gentleman, afforded us great diversion. One of the Genoese, however,

however, who was fond of the marvellous, and very desirous to converse with the Cabalist, asked the Landlord the place of his residence.

“SIR,” replied the Landlord, “he resides in a cave about two miles from this house, near the mountains, on the road to CASTELLINA.”

“GENTLEMEN,” replied the Genoese, “although I have little faith in necromancy, I acknowledge I should feel some pleasure in visiting this magician.”

“I HAVE no objection,” said the other; “suppose we gratify our inclinations.”

“AND I will bear you company,” exclaimed I; “for I would not have you conceive that I have no curiosity to see so singular a personage.”

WE accordingly resolved to take a guide the ensuing morning to the cell of the magician; a resolution we did not fail to execute. After travelling for some time through many devious ways, we arrived at a high and broken rock, at the foot of which we discovered the mouth of a cavern, closely secured by an enormous door, against which we
knocked

knocked loudly and demanded entrance; and, having waited for sometime in silent expectation, heard at length from within a sepulchral kind of voice exclaim, "Who is there?" On replying that we came to consult THE ORACLE, the door immediately flew open, and the first object that presented itself to our sight was the person of this famous Necromancer. Figure to yourself a man at least six feet high, dressed in a white robe, upon which were painted, in red colours, all the signs of the zodiac. His head was covered with a large cap turned up with the skin of a wolf, and peaked, by way of crest, with a tiger's head; a cluster of artificial snakes and vipers crawled around his shoulders instead of hair. In short, his whole dress was calculated to give him a very terrifying aspect.

THE two Genoese addressed him, saying, that upon the fame he had acquired as a profound Cabalist, they had come a long distance to consult him upon affairs of high importance to their happiness.

THE Necromancer replied that they were misinformed of his character. But the gentlemen,

plemen, by means of entreaties mixed with encomiums upon the known extent of his capacity, forced him at length to confess, that he was deeply versed in the occult science of Cabalism. The Genoese, however, seemed to have gained very little advantage by this acknowledgment; for he told them, that he never exercised his art to gratify curiosity, but only to serve those who had a real occasion for it. They accordingly protested, without the least hesitation, that they were not drawn to his abode for the sake of indulging any curiosity; and as this assurance precluded the magician from all further objection to exercise his art, he immediately began by insinuating the vast extent of his powers, and by shewing them many rich jewels which, he said, had been given to him by persons to whom he had communicated the events of futurity.

WHILE my companions and the magician were entertaining themselves with each other, I examined, with critical attention, the inside of the cavern, which was crammed with objects that could scarcely be looked at without alarm. In one corner was a lion

with fiery eyes and a tremendous mouth ; in another a furious tiger with distended claws, as if ready to tear his prey ; in another a winged dragon eager to pounce upon its beholders. All these figures, though made of osiers covered with painted pasteboards, were so well executed, that even the live animals they represented could not have inspired greater terror. As it was impossible to look on them without trembling, they contributed to impose a belief on the mind, that the master of the cavern was a great magician ; and confirmed my companions, whose wonder he had excited by a recital of many supernatural occurrences, in the truth of that opinion ; but I suspended my judgment upon this occasion, in order that I might profit by experience.

THE Necromancer, surprized at seeing me examine the surrounding objects with such cool attention, enquired of the Genoese why I seemed to avoid his conversation ; they replied, that I had no particular reason for it, but was only indulging the common curiosity of a Spaniard.

It

It was with great chagrin that the Neciomancer heard I was a Spaniard. "I do not like," said he, "to perform my operations before people of that nation; they are for the greater part infidels and free-thinkers, who treat us as impostors."

"THERE is no rule without an exception," replied one of the Genoese; "we will answer that this Gentleman, real Spaniard as he is, is a great admirer of those superior beings who possess the art of forcing inferior agents to obey their commands. There is no despiser of your art here, we assure you; and you may boldly proceed in his presence to perform your feats."

THE magician, no longer hesitating to exhibit before me, called loudly on an agent, whose assistance was necessary to him. A figure still more horrible than his own immediately appeared in view. These two monsters obliged us to retire to an inner excavation more gloomy than the first, in the middle of which we observed a large globe of glass fixed upon a marble table. On ap-

proaching the table we observed all the letters of the alphabet painted in large characters on virgin parchment round the globe; but what particularly attracted our attention was a kind of dwarf figure all on fire within side, and which the magician told us was the subtle spirit he consulted. The eyes of this infernal agent who held his right arm extended, resembled two burning coals.

THE Necromancer addressing his discourse to this figure in a solemn and elevated tone of voice: “**URIEL**, proud spirit,” said he, “whom I have subdued by the power of my
“enchantments, I command you instantly to
“satisfy these Gentlemen, and fulfil their
“desires. Are you disposed to obey me
“with alacrity, or must I employ the terrible
“incantation which you cannot resist?”
URIEL remained silent. But the enchanter, who without doubt read the thoughts of the dæmon from the increasing fire of his eyes, said to the Genoese, “Gentlemen, your
“desires will be gratified; the proud spirit
“submits to the power of my conjuration.
“You have only to say one after another
“what

“ what you wish to know, and he will inform you.”

“ I HAVE an old father, extremely rich, and extremely avaricious,” said one of the Genoese, “ and I am impatient to become his heir; therefore command your spirit to tell me how much longer my inclination will be disappointed.”

“ THIS question shall be instantly answered,” replied the Cabalist, who immediately taking up a large glove, into which he put his right hand, and passing it through the top of the globe, touched the figure, saying, “ Come, quick, make haste.” URIEL moved obedient to the touch, and pointed the finger of his extended arm to one of the letters. The magician immediately pulled off the glove to inscribe the letter upon a sheet of paper which lay on the table, and again putting it on retouched the Dwarf, who with great docility turned about and pointed to another letter. The Enchanter repeated this operation ten or twelve times, and then examining the letters written on the paper, assured the Genoese that his fa-

ther had only three months to live : a discovery which afforded excessive joy to this affectionate son. The same ceremony was performed with respect to the question propounded by the other Genoese, who flattered himself that he should not leave the cavern with a prediction less favourable than that of his companion ; and in effect he had the satisfaction to hear that his wife was at that moment at the point of death. But, unhappily for the Gentlemen, the predictions which afforded them so much pleasure were the production of an imposture, which I discovered in the following manner :

THE Magician having succeeded in his operations rather by the credulity of the Genoese, than the prescience of his Dwarf, was silently enjoying, like a priest of *Delpbos*, the pleasure of his deceit, when it came into my head, I knew not how or why, to take up the glove with which he had touched his spirit *URIEL* ; and, on examination, I found at the end of the fore finger, an extraordinary kind of substance.

“ What

“What is this!” cried I; “is there not a loadstone in the end of this finger?”

THE Magician, who had not seen me take up the glove, appeared greatly troubled at this question, and turning with confusion and dismay to my companions said, “Gentlemen, was it without reason that I suspected this Spaniard?”—“We will find out the truth of this matter,” said they, and accordingly, taking up the glove, they found a loadstone in one of the fingers. The sorrow they felt on being disappointed in the truth of their predictions, did not prevent them from bursting into a fit of laughter on this discovery; and the pretended Cabalist, perceiving himself detected, changed his tone, and candidly acknowledged the deceit. The proud spirit **URIEL** we discovered was nothing more than an artificial figure formed of oziers, with an arm covered with a plate of steel, which, being attracted by the loadstone in the glove, was made to point to any of the letters round the globe. But he supplicated us not to divulge the secret, saying, in order to induce us to comply with his request, that we ought to consider him in

the light of a common juggler, or fortune-teller, who did no real injury to mankind; that although, in truth, he deceived the credulous, he only predicted to them the most agreeable events; that in general they were perfectly satisfied with his conduct; that, in short, his oracles were sometimes accomplished, which supported his reputation, and enabled him to live. Promising the impostor to keep the secret, we left him in his cavern, extremely mortified that he could not include us in the catalogue of his dupes; then taking the road to EMPOLI, we entertained ourselves with pleasant observations on the spirit URIEL, and the fools rely on such prophets, and arrived the following day at FLORENCE.

CHAPTER THE TWENTY-FIRST.

The Arrival of VANILLO at Florence ; the Employment that was offered to him ; and the Service he rendered DON CHRISTOVAL.

ON our arrival at FLORENCE, we hired lodgings at a celebrated hotel in the vicinity of the royal palace. In a few days afterwards, my two companions left me to return home. We separated in the usual way, by mutual expressions of regret, and by mutually forgetting each other in ten minutes afterwards.

THE hotel was, in general, frequented by men of fashion and consequence ; but it was also occasionally visited by characters of a different description.

ONE day, just as the servants were bringing in the dinner, a person handsomely dressed entered the room, and took his seat at the table. During the repast, I observed that he frequently fixed his eyes very at-

tentively upon me ; and at length, on looking at him attentively in return, I recollected that he was one of the passengers who had sailed with me from PALERMO to LEGHORN. “ I believe, Sir,” said he, to me, when the cloth was drawn, “ you and I “ have travelled together upon the seas.” I told him that I recollected it well ; and we entered, by degrees, into a long and intimate conversation. He informed me, that his name was ROGER MATADORI, a native of the village of ADERNO, in the valley of DEMONA, at the foot of MOUNT GIBEL, in SICILY ; that he passed his time in the delights which FLORENCE afforded, with a few select friends of his own disposition ; and that it would make him extremely happy if I would partake of the pleasures of their society. His manners were mild, and his countenance so engagingly open, that I thought I could not do better than to join his company. He accordingly introduced me to two young gentlemen of fashionable appearance, who received me with open arms, and invited me to all their parties of pleasure. They introduced me to some of
the

the best houses in the city ; induced me to visit the most beautiful women of their acquaintance ; and drained me of my pistoles by a variety of expensive pleasures, without giving me the least reason to think they intended to empty my purse ; for in all our parties each of us paid our equal shares : but they had resources, and I had none ; and my mind became dejected in proportion as my funds decreased.

MATADORI, having observed the depression of my spirits, said to me one day :
“ SIGNIOR GONZALES, you seem to be un-
“ easy, and I think I can conjecture the
“ cause of it ; you begin to want money.”

“ You have guessed right,” replied I ;
“ and what is still worse, there is no quar-
“ ter of the world from whence I can ex-
“ pect any.”

“ THE means,” said MATADORI, “ are
“ in your own power whenever you please,
“ without being reduced to the painful ne-
“ cessity of applying to friends for assistance..
“ You have only to enter into the employ-
“ ment I follow, and I will undertake that
“ you shall not only have a good appoint-
“ ment,

“ment, but be enabled to live with ease
“and independence.”

I REQUESTED that he would inform me
of the nature of the employment.

“I WAS just going to tell you,” said he.
“You know that there resides in this city
“an old Catalonian, known by the name of
“DON RODERIGO DE CENTELLA. This
“officer was formerly a leader of *Miquelots*,
“in Spain*, and he has also actually served
“in the troops of the Grand Duke with
“honour. The character of this man is
“very extraordinary: his mind is entirely
“occupied in causing justice to be admi-
“nistered in civil society. For this purpose
“he has a number of spies to inform him
“of the affronts and outrages that are com-
“mitted in FLORENCE; of these injuries he
“keeps an exact Register, and undertakes
“to avenge them at a certain price. You
“will easily conceive,” continued MATA-
DORI, “that a man cannot be engaged in
“this kind of pursuit openly, as it might

* The Miquelots were a sort of banditti who infested
the mountains of the Pyrenees.

“be considered as an usurpation of the
“Rights of Government. Matters there-
“fore are conducted with the greatest pos-
“sible secrecy. The moment a spy discovers
“that any person has received an injury, he
“communicates it to Don RODERIGO,
“who sends to the injured party, and of-
“fers, for a certain sum of money, to
“revenge his cause, either by the death of
“the aggressor, or by some other punishment
“proportioned to the enormity of the of-
“fence. If the proposal is acceded to,
“which is almost always the case, the
“Captain pronounces the sentence, and
“executes it immediately by means of his
“spies, among whom he divides one half
“of the money he received.”

I INTERRUPTED MATADORI hastily.
“You are then, I conjecture,” said I,
“one of these secret executioners.”

“You have conjectured rightly,” re-
plied he; “I am one of Don RODERIGO’s
“spies, and so are also the two young Gen-
“tlemen to whom I have introduced you,
“the one of whom is a *Sicilian*, and the
“other a *Venetian*.”

“THE

“THE devil take it,” said I, laughingly,
“but you are recommending me to a service
“of some danger, which does not at all ac-
“cord with my temper; and I am fearful
“that I should not acquit myself in it with
“great dexterity; for although I was bred
“to surgery, I am not of a sanguinary dis-
“position; and besides, I must freely con-
“fess that I do not think I possess sufficient
“courage for such perilous exploits.”

“OH! ignorant simpleton,” ex-
claimed MATADORI, “I possess no more
“courage than you do. Valour is a gift
“which Heaven has bestowed upon very
“few men. I declare to you, most confi-
“dently, that if the employment ever
“obliged me to attack a brave man, or
“any man fairly, or engage in any pe-
“rilous undertaking, I would, lucrative
“as it is, renounce it to-morrow. Do not,
“therefore, deceive yourself,” continued
he, “by supposing that we run any risque:
“Where can be the danger? We rush
“upon a man who is not upon his guard,
“then strike him instantly to the heart with
“a poignard,

“ a poignard, or blow out his brains with
“ pistol, and our business is executed.”

“ I ACKNOWLEDGE the truth of what
“ you say,” said I; “ but all your elo-
“ quence to excite a desire in my mind to
“ augment the number of Don RODER-
“ go’s spies, will be fruitless. I do not like
“ to raise money by these means; the very
“ idea of assassination chills me with
“ horror.”

“ I do not wonder at it,” replied MA-
TADOR; “ the prejudices of education un-
“ avoidably produce these sentiments: my
“ mind like yours revolted at the idea of
“ shedding the blood of a fellow-creature,
“ or rather I was fearful of its conse-
“ quences: the Captain appeared to me
“ like an inhuman villain; but I saw the
“ matter in a very different view, when I
“ was informed of the admirable system he
“ pursues in the condemnation of the of-
“ fender. His method is this: he ex-
“ mines, by rules of the purest equity, all the
“ circumstances of the case, and then con-
“ sults a Register, in which he has collected
“ a description of every species of injury,
“ pardon-

“ pardonable and unpardonable, with the
 “ several reparations which ought to be
 “ made according to the nicest laws of
 “ honour. This is his system of jurispru-
 “ dence; and by these unerring rules he
 “ decides, with as safe a conscience, and
 “ as much anxiety for justice, as any crimi-
 “ nal judge in the country.”

“ HOLY Heavens !” exclaimed I, to the
 Sicilian, “ this impious and inhuman tri-
 “ bunal is worthy of Spaniards ! They
 “ most fondly wish for vengeance. I no
 “ longer wonder that they are said to have
 “ expunged from their decalogue the sixth
 “ Commandment. But, though a Spaniard
 “ myself, I am a faithful observer of it.
 “ I wish that I had also power as strictly to
 “ observe all the others.”

“ FROM what I have related to you,” said
 MATADORI, “ you must perceive that
 “ whatever is repugnant to humanity in the
 “ system of this Catalonian Captain, must
 “ be attributed to the strict principles of
 “ justice on which it is founded ; for sen-
 “ tence of death is only affixed to the most
 “ atrocious injuries, as may be seen by the
 “ Register,

“Register, a copy of which each of his spies carries in his pocket as his breviary.” In saying this he pulled from his pocket a small manuscript volume written in the Castilian language, and desired me to read a few pages, which, among other things, contained the following articles :

FIRST. Let the traitor, who, after seducing a man into any difficult or dangerous enterprize, shall desert and leave him to extricate himself, be—STABBED.

SECONDLY. If a man of gallantry shall use any endeavour to debauch the wife of a jealous husband, he shall be—SHOT.

THIRDLY. If a man return the favours which a friend has conferred upon him with ingratitude, he shall suffer the—STILLETTO.

FOURTHLY. If any satyrist, whether in verse or in prose, rashly censures the works of the illustrious dead, whose memories all the world revere, he shall be condemned to that punishment which the Romans called—*Fustuarium**.

* Which was to be whipped to death with large rods.

FIFTHLY.

FIFTHLY. Every author who destroys the credit of any good citizen shall receive
—TWO GASHES IN THE FACE.

THE merit of the other articles which this curious code of jurisprudence contained, may be collected from those I have enumerated. I returned the volume to MATADORI, saying, that I should prefer the duties of servitude to the performance of those which the office of spy to Don RODERIGO required.

“You are to blame,” replied MATADORI, “for I now exercise these duties without feeling the least compunction, and the large profits they produce render my situation perfectly agreeable: this is the medium through which you ought to view the service; and if you were only to taste the sweets of two or three expeditions, you would find it a very agreeable and pleasant employment. We have frequently very valuable prizes. For instance, to-morrow night, we have one which will produce to each of us, by an agreement already made, thirty pistoles. There is at present in this city a young
“and

“and noble Spaniard who is enamoured with
“the wife of an old but opulent Merchant :
“the young spark hovers every evening in
“the environs of his charmer’s house : the
“husband has engaged to pay a thousand
“crowns for his punishment ; one moiety
“of which he has paid in advance, and the
“remainder is to be paid the day after jus-
“tice is executed on the offender.”

“THIS Spanish nobleman,” said I, “per-
“haps may not permit himself to be so easily
“affassinated as you seem to expect.”

“EXCUSE me,” said MATADORI ; “as
“he always walks alone, his mind occu-
“pied with love, and totally unapprehen-
“sive of danger, he will fall an easy victim.
“The attack,” continued MATADORI,
“ought to have been made this evening ;
“but Don RODERIGO, following with
“scrupulous fidelity the principles of his
“system, thought it wrong to deprive a man
“of his life until he had acquired a perfect
“knowledge of his character. The only
“information he has yet obtained is, that
“he is by birth *a Castilian*, and that he is
“called Don CHRISTOVAL. In vain I en-
“deavoured

“deavoured to persuade the Judge that this
“information was sufficient.” “No, — no,”
“replied he, “it is necessary first to know
“his family and connections, and I charge
“you to make the discovery this day, so that
“nothing may impede the stroke of justice
“to-morrow.”

THE name of DON CHRISTOVAL alarmed me. I conceived that the person to whom it was applied might be my former master, who, visiting FLORENCE, was willing to enter into its gallantries; and these fears were greatly augmented by the knowledge I possessed of his fondness for the sex.

THE uneasiness which this uncertainty created in my mind, and the anxiety I felt if he was really the man, to rescue him from the impending danger, induced me to feign an inclination to be employed by the Captain as a spy. “You have only,” said I to MATADORI, “to shew me the dwelling of
“this proscribed Spaniard, and be assured I
“will obtain a complete account of him before night.”

MATADORI, conceiving that I intended faithfully to assist him, was transported with
joy,

joy, and after praising my good sense, and shewing me the dwelling of Don CHRISTOVAL, quitted me to inform his companions that I was hereafter to share with them the profits of their judicial enterprizes.

THE impatience I felt to see this Castilian nobleman, whose days were drawing so rapidly to an end, is greater than language can express. The hotel at which he lodged was at a distant part of the city, and generally frequented by Spaniards; and I immediately resorted to it, determined to apprise the person, whomsoever it might be, of the danger which threatened his life. I had no occasion to apply for information to the Landlord, for the first person I saw, on entering the doors, was my dear master, Don CHRISTOVAL DE GAVARIA. We recollected each other at the same instant. Saluting him, and seizing one of his hands, I kissed it with such transport that I was unable to utter a word. On his part also, whether his former friendship for me revived, or whether he was moved by the joy I exhibited at seeing him, he was certainly affected to a high degree, and, embracing me with the warmest

warmest cordiality, expressed his joy at seeing me again in the strongest terms. “ Yes, my
“ honest friend,” continued he, “ I return
“ my thanks to Heaven that we once more
“ meet again, after a separation of so many
“ years : I have been travelling, at the desire
“ of my Uncle, through Italy for the last
“ fifteen months ; and, since I have the hap-
“ piness to meet you here, I shall find it my
“ inclination to stay much longer at FLO-
“ RENCE than I at first intended. But tell
“ me, VANILLO, how do you pass your time
“ in this city ? Is your situation comfortable ?
“ What have you been doing since the day
“ of our unhappy separation ?”

I GAVE Don CHRISTOVAL an ample detail of all my adventures, omitting only my acquaintance with MATADORI ; and when I had concluded my narration, he resumed his discourse.

“ I AM happy, VANILLO, to find you in
“ a situation which enables you again to en-
“ ter into my service ; but as it would be
“ painful to the feelings of a man who has
“ been a Viceroy’s Page, to be reduced to
“ the capacity of Valet to a private gentle-
“ man,

“man, I will make you my Secretary : Will
“that be agreeable to you?”

“EXTREMELY agreeable,” replied I;
“there is only one circumstance that gives
“me pain : the old Knight, who has so hap-
“py a talent at confounding the Latin poets;
“will perhaps think it as improper that I
“should be your Secretary as your Valet.”

“THE Knight is no more,” replied Don
CHRISTOVAL, “and there is no obstacle re-
“maining to impede our re-union.”

“WELL, Sir,” replied I, “since it is
“your pleasure, I am at your service. Place
“the same confidence in me as you did
“before, and be assured I shall always pre-
“serve my fidelity to you. Permit me to
“enquire what employment Love has af-
“forded you since you have been at FLO-
“RENCE; for I have no doubt but that some
“new BERNARDINA entertains you with
“kindness.”

“It is true,” replied he, “I am in pur-
“suit of a Merchant’s wife, young, beauti-
“tiful, and amorous ; but, although she has
“engrossed my attention for this last fort-
“night, I have not yet reaped any fruit
“from

“ from my industry. I must not, however,
“ accuse her of ingratitude ; for she has just
“ sent me word, that her husband, who is
“ an old silk-merchant, is going to-morrow
“ to SIENNA, and will be absent three days ;
“ and I am to be introduced into the house
“ at night by means of a menial servant
“ whom I have engaged in my interest.”

“ TAKE good care, my dear master,
“ what you do,” exclaimed I ; “ instead of
“ meeting with the pleasures of love, you
“ will find perhaps a disastrous death.”

THESE words, which I pronounced in a
very serious manner, astonished DonCHRIS-
TOVAL.

“ VANILLO,” said he, “ explain yourself.
“ Why is it that you speak in this way ? Is
“ it from mere conjecture that you use this
“ language, or is there in fact any danger of
“ which I am ignorant ?”

“ Yes, Sir,” replied I, “ you are in most
“ imminent danger.” At the same time I
related to him all that MATADORI had told
me, and that upon hearing the name of Don
CHRISTOVAL I had treacherously feigned
to

to become one of the spies of RODERIGO, for the purpose of protecting life.

“ You have conducted yourself in this business with admirable dexterity,” said my master, “ and I deeply feel the great obligation I am under to you upon this occasion ; but do not think,” continued he, “ that the designs of these miserable ruffians shall prevent me from keeping the appointment. There are three brave Spaniards who lodge in this hotel. I shall desire them to accompany me. They will I am sure be happy to assist in purging FLORENCE of this nest of villains.”

ON my representing to DON CHRISTOVAL that it would be much more wise and prudent to leave FLORENCE at day-break the ensuing morning, he replied, “ My honour will not suffer it. It shall never be said that the fear of death prompted my flight.”

“ AND must not you fly for fear,” replied I, “ if you should happen to kill MATADORI and his companions ?”

“ Oh, my dear friend,” said he, “ the
“ cases are very different; there is no
“ shame in flying from justice when her
“ arms are extended for your destruc-
“ tion.”

CHAP.

CHAPTER THE TWENTY-SECOND.

The Conclusion of this Adventure ; the Apprehensions VANILLO entertained ; and his Departure from FLORENCE with DON CHRISTOVAL.

THE measures which DON CHRISTOVAL proposed to adopt did not in any way meet with my approbation, and I again endeavoured to dissuade him from pursuing them ; but all my efforts were vain. He immediately communicated his intentions to the three Spaniards, and they acceded to the scheme with as much alacrity as if they had been engaging in a party of pleasure.

WHILE these gentlemen were enjoying in idea the success of their project, I returned to my hotel, where, pursuant to the measures I had preconcerted with DON CHRISTOVAL, I informed MATADORI that the Cavalier, whose family he was so anxious

to obtain some account of, was Don CHRIS-TOVAL of GAVARIA, a gentleman not only of high rank, but of immense fortune, in the province of ARRAGON, which was the place of his nativity.

“THIS is sufficient,” said MATADORI. “To-morrow we will give this gentleman a
“passport to the other world, and he will
“find that neither his nobility nor his for-
“tune will impede his voyage.”

ON the evening of the ensuing day each of the three spies, the better to enable them to strike this blow of summary justice, armed himself with a sword, a dagger, and a pistol, and concealed themselves in the vicinity of the lady's house who was the cause of these dreadful preparations, where they did not wait long before Don CHRIS-TOVAL arrived; but, perceiving him surrounded by three men with drawn swords, instead of making the meditated attack, they conceived it more prudent to discharge their pistols at them and retire. They fired, however, with so much precipitation, that they only wasted their powder in the air. In vain did Don GAVARIA and his friends follow
the

the fugitives; they pursued men greatly their superiors in the race, especially MATADORI, who possessed the talent of instantly placing a great distance between himself and his enemy.

THE coast being now clear, Don CHRISTOVAL was at full liberty to enter the house of the old Merchant, and take complete revenge for the price which jealousy had set upon his life; but chusing rather to renounce his vengeance than to continue an amour which might still produce unpleasant consequences, he returned to the hotel with his three friends, and terminated an adventure which, if the spies of Don RODERIGO had not been arrant poltroons, might have produced bloodshed and death. Poltroons however as they were, they made me tremble.

“SIGNIOR VANILLO,” said MATADORE to me the following day, “may I ask you what sum you received from Don CHRISTOVAL for advising him to be upon his guard last night; for if you had not warned him of his danger, I am persuaded he would have come alone to the rendezvous.”

I ATTEMPTED to deny the fact ; but MATADORI silenced me, saying, “ Deny it to
“ others, my friend, but do not attempt to
“ impose upon me. Do not add the mean-
“ ness of falsehood to the guilt of treason.
“ There is not the least doubt existing in the
“ minds either of my companions or myself
“ of your having rendered this kind office
“ to Don GAVARIA. You have played us a
“ Page’s trick, and, as far as I am concerned,
“ I freely forgive you ; but I cannot answer
“ for my Venetian and Sicilian confederates ;
“ and therefore if you mean to act wisely
“ you will take good care of yourself.”

THE alarm which this insinuation of danger gave me, induced me to assume the appearance of undaunted courage. “ If these
“ gentlemen shall dare to attack me,” said I,
“ I shall defend myself. If I am not natu-
“ rally courageous, I am, to make amends,
“ one of those rational bravos who fight like
“ madmen when they are obliged to do
“ it.”

“ So much the better for you,” replied he,
“ for if they should meet you accidentally
“ in

“in a convenient place, you will have occasion for all your bravery, of whatever kind it may be, to escape, in a whole skin, from their hands.”

THIS discourse, which was only intended to terrify me, produced the desired effect; and, conceiving that I was not safe in sleeping at my own hotel, I not only decamped to take shelter with Don CHRISTOVAL, but I constantly avoided walking alone either in the city or its environs; and, lest my rational courage might be put to the test, lived, as I may say, the life of a hare, for the course of eight days. I was however eased of my alarm by a letter which my master received from the Bishop of SALAMANCA, in which he desired his nephew to return instantly to SARAGOSSA, to espouse the only daughter of the Count de VILLAMEDIANA, Governor of that city, adding, that he intended to perform the ceremony himself.

DON CHRISTOVAL, who paid implicit obedience to all his Uncle's commands, immediately departed from FLORENCE, ac-

accompanied by his Secretary, a Valet de
Chambre, and a Lacquey, for LEGHORN,
in order to wait the first opportunity of a
passage to Spain.

CHAP.

CHAPTER THE TWENTY-THIRD.

DON CHRISTOVAL and his Suite embark at LEGHORN and sail to BARCELONA, from whence they proceed to SARAGOSSA.—The Marriage of DON CHRISTOVAL, and the Consequences of this Union.

ON our arrival at LEGHORN, we were informed that a Spanish vessel would sail in the course of three days for BARCELONA; and, taking advantage of this opportunity, we reached that port after a prosperous voyage, without experiencing the least bad weather, or, what is more miraculous in those seas, without meeting with a Barbary Corsair. The moment we set our feet on shore we hired mules to carry us to SARAGOSSA.

DON CHRISTOVAL, on our arrival at this celebrated metropolis of ARRAGON, not chus-

ing to visit the Count de VILLAMEDIANA, or to appear before a mistress whom he had never seen, until he had changed his dress, alighted at the first hotel; but before we had been there an hour, a servant from the Bishop of SALAMANCA appeared. "Signor," said he to Don CHRISTOVAL, "I have been seeking you from hotel to hotel, by order of his Grace your Uncle, who has been at SARAGOSSA these eight days past. He is at the Governor's house, where an apartment is prepared for you; and they are waiting for your arrival with great impatience. I will return and inform them of your approach, which I am sure they will be rejoiced to hear."

THE servant who communicated this information to Don CHRISTOVAL was my old class-fellow at the University, the very MANSANO whom I had left at the Episcopal Palace of SALAMANCA. He looked at me stedfastly for some time, and at length recollecting his former friend, exclaimed, "How, VANILLO GONZALES returned!"

"YES, my good friend," replied I, "my kind stars have directed me to find my former

“former master, who has kindly restored
“me to his service.”

“I AM overwhelmed with joy,” replied
MANSANO, “and I can assure you that the
“rest of his Grace’s household will be equally
“pleased to find you reinstated in your for-
“mer employ.”

“My friend,” said DON CHRISTOVAL,
turning to his Uncle’s Valet, “perhaps you
“have seen the lady who is destined to be
“my bride. Does her beauty justify my
“eager haste to receive her hand?”

“SIGNIOR,” replied MANSANO, “Don-
“na ANNA will gain but little by the portrait
“I can draw of her. She is one of those
“brilliant beauties which it is impossible
“to describe; nature has spread around
“her such a dazzling lustre, that the eye is
“incapable of perceiving the least defect.
“You must behold her to have any idea of
“her charms. But I can truly say that it
“was impossible for your Uncle to make a
“better choice.”

“UPON your representation,” replied
DON CHRISTOVAL, with a smile of satisfac-
tion, “I can have no doubt of my future
“happiness.”

“happiness. I rely with confidence on your
“discernment. Go, MANSANO,” added he,
“go, announce my arrival to your master,
“and assure him that in a few minutes he
“will see his nephew.”

MANSANO returned accordingly to the Bishop; and DON CHRISTOVAL made every preparation which he thought might prepossess the mind of Donna ANNA in his favour. The style of his dress was neatly elegant, and, when every decoration was performed, he repaired to the Governor’s house.

THE affectionate Uncle burst into tears of joy at seeing him again, and, embracing him with great tenderness, exclaimed, “My
“dear Nephew, your return will afford me
“still higher delight if you approve of my
“negociation for your felicity. The Count
“de VILLAMEDIANA, my ancient friend,
“is willing, on my account, to prefer you
“to every other candidate for his daughter’s hand. The alliance appeared to me
“so advantageous to you, that I have ventured, without consulting you, to promise
“your acquiescence; but do not conceive
“that I mean to tyrannize. You shall see
“Donna

“ Donna ANNA immediately ; if she meets
“ with your inclination, you may become
“ her husband in a short time ; but, on the
“ contrary, if you feel the least objection, I
“ will myself oppose the match ; and, on the
“ other side also, if you should not meet with
“ the lady’s approbation, the engagements I
“ have made are void. These are the terms
“ upon which her father and I have agreed,
“ in order to avoid the misery of uniting two
“ persons who are not destined for each other.”

“ SIR,” replied Don CHRISTOVAL, “ I am
“ certainly under great obligations to you
“ for the tender attachment you have al-
“ ways shewn to my interest ; but I doubt
“ whether I ought to rejoice at these condi-
“ tions, which, though extremely prudent,
“ are not without danger. The heart of
“ Donna ANNA is perhaps pre-engaged ;
“ and if it be not, I may be disagreeable to
“ her, however pleasing she may appear to
“ me.”

“ It is right to be modest,” replied the
Bishop with a smile ; “ but, considering
“ your age and person, I cannot but enter-
“ tain some hopes. I may also say to en-
“ courage

“courage you, that I cannot think your
“figure will be any way displeasing in the
“eyes of the young lady. But,” continued
he, “we will soon put it to the test. I
“must first introduce you to the Count de
“VILLAMEDIANA, and we will then pay our
“respects to the Countess and her daugh-
“ter.”

THE Bishop accordingly conducted his nephew to the apartment of the Governor. The old Nobleman received Don CHRISTOVAL with the most engaging politeness, and, struck with his fine and open countenance, involuntarily exclaimed, that Donna ANNA would be very difficult if she did not approve of such a lover. The Prelate on his part spoke highly in praise of the lady, politely saying, he was sure the heart of his Nephew must surrender at first sight. The Count and the Prelate, though satisfied of the truth of what they said, were, however, not without fear that some hidden caprice might confound their project. To decide the doubtful point they immediately conducted the young man to the cabinet of the
Countess,

Countess, where they discovered ANNA in all the brilliancy of dress and beauty.

THIS first interview was employed in the interchanges of civility ; not a word transpired on the subject of the intended alliance ; for it was thought right first to discover, whether the parties interested appeared to have any objection to the union. The first opportunity, therefore, which the Count had of speaking privately with his daughter, he asked her what she thought of Don CHRISTOVAL, and whether she had any objection to him as a husband. She confessed, with modest candour, that she should, without murmuring, obey her father's orders to receive his hand.

DON CHRISTOVAL, on his part, did not wait for his Uncle's question to declare the victory which Donna ANNA had gained over his heart ; for, in truth, she alone, from the first moment he saw her, occupied his mind. " Oh ! VANILLO," said he, I have
 " seen Donna ANNA. MANSANO has truly
 " said that it is impossible to paint her with-
 " out doing injury to her charms. She has
 " perhaps defects, but her lovely eyes beam
 " with

“with such transcendant lustre that they
“dazzle the beholder, and prevent him
“from examining her charms except with
“admiration.”

“My dear master,” replied I, “deeply
“engaged as your heart appears to be by
“the beauties of your bride, I have no doubt
“but your merits have made an equal im-
“pression on her mind.”

“I DARE not flatter myself,” said he,
“with the hope of so much happiness.”

“FIE, Sir,” replied I, “you cannot be
“serious in that sentiment; entertain a
“juster opinion of nature; if the heart of
“our sex palpitate with pleasure at the sight
“of female charms, why should you think
“their bosoms feel less emotion in our fa-
“vour? I should, in your situation, enter-
“tain a higher opinion of my merit, and
“immediately conceive that I had warmed
“the heart by which I felt my own so much
“inflamed.”

DON CHRISTOVAL did not remain long
ignorant of the passion with which he had
inspired his intended bride; and the Count,
being informed by the Bishop of the tender
impression

impression which his daughter had made on Don CHRISTOVAL's heart, ordered preparation to be made, without loss of time, for their nuptials, which were celebrated a few days afterwards with a magnificence suitable to the rank of the parties.

THE event was accompanied by great rejoicings, and a ball was given on the occasion at the Castle, to which the principal Nobility of ARRAGON were invited.

DURING the height of the festivity, a Gentleman masked, and dressed in the French style, approached Don CHRISTOVAL, and, clasping his hand, whispered softly in his ear, "SIR, *I insist on your meeting me to-morrow morning at break of day, on the plain in the road to GALLEGO, there to receive the compliments I have to make you upon your marriage, which I cannot do but in privacy.*" The spirited courage of Don CHRISTOVAL replied without hesitation to the unknown, "Whoever you may be, be assured that I will meet you, and take care that I am not the first at the place appointed." Don CHRISTOVAL expressed these words with so much composure,

sure, that no person in the company suspected what had passed.

TOWARDS the conclusion of the ball, which continued all night, he privately quitted the ball room, and, under pretence of enjoying the freshness of the morning air, on the borders of the Ebro, ordered a horse of great speed to be saddled, and reached the plains which lead to GALLEGO. The unknown adversary waited his approach at the entrance of the village. They perceived each other at the same instant, and were soon together at the appointed spot. Don CHRISTOVAL addressed his adversary, who was still masked, "*Sir, Before you offer me the threatened compliment on my marriage, inform me who you are, and why we thus meet.*"

"THAT is my intention," replied the unknown. "My name is Don MELCHIER DE RIDA. I am one of the disappointed lovers of Donna ANNA, whom the Count her father has sacrificed to you. I am too jealous of your happiness to endure it; and since I have not been so fortunate as to obtain the object of my love, I will at least prevent any other from possessing her."

“her.” In speaking these words he alighted from his horse, which he tied to the bough of a tree. Don CHRISTOVAL immediately followed his example. They drew their swords at the same instant, and a violent onset immediately ensued. Don MELCHIER, who was as adroit a swordsman as his antagonist, carried a thrust under his left breast, but happily the point of the sword only glanced the side. Don CHRISTOVAL, to revenge this success, made a variety of thrusts equally artful and vigorous, but they were all parried with great dexterity and returned by other thrusts which were avoided with equal adroitness. The combatants continued to fence with great fury for more than a quarter of an hour, and victory hung in equal scales. But at length Heaven, who was pleased to favour the right cause, permitted my master to give his adversary the *coup de grace*, and he fell dead at his feet. The victor immediately remounted his horse, and returned to Saragossa, leaving the unfortunate Gentleman who had provoked this appeal weltering in blood on the field of battle.

DON CHRISTOVAL, on his return to the Castle, immediately communicated the particulars of this event to his Uncle and his Father-in-law, who, conscious that the family of the deceased possessed great interest at Court, resolved that it would be necessary for my master immediately to conceal himself in some secret retreat, until the matter could be accommodated; and, after much consideration, the Castle of Rodenas, belonging to the Bishop of ALBARAZIN, an intimate friend of the Count's, was fixed upon as the properest place of refuge.

THE day was occupied in making preparations for his departure, and in settling the means by which a mutual intercourse might be safely preserved; after which he retired to the apartment of his beloved wife and passed two-thirds of the night in condoling with her on the separation which had thus early interrupted their hymeneal joys. A few moments before the approach of day he departed, accompanied by his Valet de Chambre, his Lacquey, and myself, mounted on four of the finest horses in the Governor's stables; and, in three days, we reached

reached the village of LONGARES, from whence we continued our route in the same way to DAROCA, where we passed the night.

CHAPTER THE TWENTY-FOURTH.

DON CHRISTOVAL and **VANILLO** arrive at the Castle of **RODENAS**. The Manner in which they were received by the Bishop of **ALBARAZIN**.

AT day-break the ensuing morning we continued our journey; and, by a beaten track between the mountains, arrived at **VILLA FRANCA**, where, stopping to enquire the situation of the Castle of **RODENAS**, we had the pleasure to find not only that it was but a mile distant, but that the Bishop was there. **DON CHRISTOVAL** accordingly dispatched me with the letter which the Count de **VILLAMEDIANA** had written to the Prelate, requesting him to afford an asylum to his new relation.

I REPAIRED immediately to the Castle, which was extremely magnificent in its structure,

structure, and the grounds by which it was surrounded in fine order.

THE moment I announced my arrival from the Governor of SARAGOSSA, I was conducted to his Grace's apartment, who, being a lover of music, was then enjoying a vocal and instrumental concert in the large hall. He rose and met me as I entered the room. I presented the Count's letter to him, which he opened, and, having perused its contents, desired me to follow him to his study.

"THE Count de VILLAMEDIANA," said he, "does me infinite honour to prefer this Castle to all the other asylums which he might have commanded for his son. I feel with so much sensibility this new testimony of his friendship, that I shall be anxious to do every thing in my power to shew my gratitude. Return directly to SARAGOSSA," continued he, "and assure the Governor, that I wait the arrival of DON CHRISTOVAL with impatience."

"MY Lord," replied I, "you will not long be deprived of the pleasure of his company; he is now not far off, for I
" have

“just left him at the Hotel at VILLA
“FRANCA.”

“So much the better,” replied the Prelate, “return to him with all possible expedition, and conduct him immediately to the Castle, where you may assure him he will be received by a sincere friend of his worthy father-in-law.”

I was not long in returning to my master, who, upon the report I made of the disposition of the Bishop of ALBARAZIN to receive him, departed instantly from VILLA FRANCA for the Castle of RODENAS.

THE conduct of the Prelate corresponded with his promises: he received Don CHRISTOVAL with every mark of politeness and respect; and, after a long conversation with him on the subject of the duel, regaled him with a supper and a concert. On the conclusion of the evening, he conducted him to the handsomest apartment in the Castle, where he left him to repose.

To do justice to this hospitable Prelate, I must acknowledge, that he was one who did the highest honour to episcopacy. Descended from the House of OZORIO, he
joined

joined to the nobility of his family a fortune which enabled him to support a splendid table, the most superb equipages, and a regular band of music. Beside this, he was a man of benevolent and humane feelings, who gave all his superfluous wealth to the poor; but, unfortunately for them, the style in which he lived seldom left much remaining for this purpose.

THE ensuing day his Grace walked with his new guest round the gardens and pleasure grounds, which were certainly worthy of admiration: on the one side, beautiful parterres, ornamented with a thousand curious flowers, interspersed with aromatic shrubs, offered incense to the sight and smell. Here fountains fed by the river XILOA, which runs through the grounds, elevated the water proudly into the air, while its streams fell again with dashing noise into marble reservoirs beneath. There aviaries of wide extent presented to the eye the varied plumage of every rare and curious bird. These delightful gardens appeared, in short, to be the work of fairies; for the Prelate, who cultivated them with equal

taste and expence, passed much more of his time at the Castle of RODENAS, than at the Episcopal Palace of ALBAZARIN, which was only about eighteen miles distant.

CHAPTER THE TWENTY-FIFTH.

VANILLO departs from the Castle of RODENAS and returns to SARAGOSSA. He loses his Way, and sleeps in a Hermitage.

TWO days after our arrival at RODENAS, DON CHRISTOVAL addressed me in the following terms: "We enjoy, "you perceive VANILLO, a most delightful "retreat; and, what is still more pleasing "to me, live under the auspices of a Grandee who performs all the duties of hospitality with peculiar propriety. Of this "circumstance we ought immediately to "inform the Count de VILLAMEDIANA; "he will be delighted to hear of the respectful attention the Bishop pays to "me; and I have resolved to dispatch "you to-morrow to give him the account."

I PREPARED accordingly to return to SARAGOSSA, and set off the ensuing morning with a long letter to the Governor, and another still longer to Donna ANNA. I also received one from the Prelate, expressing his gratitude to the Count for having sent him so amiable a guest as Don CHRISTOVAL.

PASSING through VILLA FRANCA, I continued my road across the mountains, and arrived at the source of the river GUERVA, where I lost my way by pursuing a path on the opposite side of this devious stream, instead of keeping close to its banks on the side of DAROCA. After travelling several hours I arrived at a kind of hermitage, at the door of which stood an old man, whose venerable appearance inspired me with respect: a long brown robe inclosed his body, a simple network bonnet covered his head, a white beard flowed upon his breast, and the sacred rotary adorned his hand. “Holy Father,” said I, “do me the favour to inform me where I am, and whether there is any place of accommodation near.”

“You are,” replied he, “fix miles from BELCHITE and nine from ROMANA; there

“there is no place of accommodation until
“you arrive at the one or the other of these
“villages, neither of which you can possibly
“reach before night; but if you will accept,” added he, “the accommodation
“which my humble cell affords, I offer it
“to you with good will, and to-morrow
“morning you may pursue your journey.

Suspicion, says a Castilian author, is the parent of Security: I remained for several minutes uncertain how to determine.

THE kind recluse divined the meaning of my hesitation, and smiling said, “Young
“Gentleman, do not permit my external
“appearance to alarm you; this habit is
“sometimes worn by honest men.” These words dispelled my fears; and I dismounted from my mule, rendering thanks to Heaven for having so kindly provided for me this accommodating interview.

THIS venerable old man immediately conducted me into an inner court, where he called to an attendant, who was also clothed in the habit of a hermit, and ordered him to take care of my mule. We then entered into a hall, in which were a range of

benches to sit on, and on the walls pictures of St. ANTHONY, St. PACHOMIUS, and other Anchorets. Adjoining to this hall was a small chamber with two beds: “You
“ see,” said the hermit, “the only oppor-
“ tunity I have of affording comfortable re-
“ pose to those whose misfortunes direct
“ their steps to my cell.” From the cham-
ber we proceeded to a kind of chapel, in
which this holy man generally offered up
his prayers to Heaven. From the chapel
he conducted me into a large garden, filled
in great abundance with every species of
fruit trees. “Observe these trees with at-
“ tention,” said he; “they supply the place
“ of butchers and bakers, and are the
“ source of all my nourishment. My ser-
“ vant and myself live throughout the
“ whole year on the fruits they produce,
“ without feeling the want of other pro-
“ visions: Sheep and other animals, which
“ in the world are slaughtered to gratify
“ the sensuality of men, we permit to feed
“ in safety on their native plains; and in-
“ stead of treacherously entrapping the
“ winged creation, we delight to see them
“ in

“in the full enjoyment of their natural
“liberty. As we eat only fruits, so our
“only beverage is water. Our cellar is in
“this garden; it consists of a fountain, whose
“soft and transparent water excels incom-
“parably the richest wines. You would ac-
“knowledge this truth if you had lived
“the life of an Anchoret in this delightful
“retreat for only a few months.”

THE recluse, perceiving a smile on my countenance as he pronounced these words, told me that my taste was vitiated.

“VITIATED as my taste may be, my
“good Father,” replied I, “there are cer-
“tain wines which I have tasted, both in
“Spain and Italy, which, notwithstand-
“ing all your praises, I must confess ap-
“pear to me more palatable than your
“water.”

“THEN,” replied he, “I can only
“lament your situation; for I have nothing
“to offer you but fruits and water.”

“OH! do not lament it,” replied I, “for
“I am fond of fruits; and as to water, one
“night will soon be passed.” We walked
round the garden, and returned into a

small room, which served as a refectory, and on the walls of which were inscribed many moral sentences on the subject of temperance.

WE then seated ourselves at a table, at which were placed two earthen plates, a large dish filled with various kinds of fruits, a pitcher of water, and two goblets; but we had neither table-cloth nor napkin.

THE repast, of which I neither ate or drank to excess, was seasoned with much serious and entertaining conversation on the necessity of despising the things of the world. Charmed by the mild eloquence which flowed with irresistible persuasion from the lips of this amiable and happy man, "My good Father," said I, "it appears from what you have said, that
"you have played no unimportant part on
"the theatre of the world; and, if it were
"not taking too great a liberty, I would
"request of you to relate to me the series
"of adventures by which you were induced
"to seek this solitary retreat."

"My

"My child," replied he, "I am willing
"to satisfy your curiosity, because I hope
"you will derive advantage from the recital
"you require."

He accordingly began as follows.

CHAP.

CHAPTER THE TWENTY-SIXTH.

The History of the Hermit.

I WAS born in the antient and celebrated City of PAMPELUNA, the Capital of NAVARRE, and boast a descent from the illustrious family of PERALTA, with whom the Kings of that country did not disdain to form alliance. DON FRANCIS DE PERALTA, my father, no sooner saw me able to bear arms, than he sent me to serve in Italy, where I passed the early days of youth. I afterward went into Flanders ; from whence, after a war of many years, I returned, on the restoration of peace, to my native country. Engaged in a life of pleasure with young Officers of my own age, hunting, gaming, plays, and gallantry were my chief amusements ; but although I had an opportunity of conversing with all the celebrated beauties of the country, none of them

them touched my heart. I wantoned (if I may so express myself) for some time with impunity round the torch of love; I at length however suffered severely by its flames. A grand tournament being proclaimed at PAMPELUNA, to celebrate the nativity of a Prince, most of the young Officers entered the lists, to dispute with each other the fame of victory, and spectators resorted to the City in crowds, from NAVARRE, CASTILE, BISCAY, and ARRAGON, to behold the contest. Among others there came an old Gentleman from BURGOS, named DON GASPARD DE HENIS, accompanied by Donna INNES his daughter. The aunt of this young lady, Donna JUANNA XIMENES, a rich widow, who supported a splendid establishment in PAMPELUNA, and with whom these visitors resided, was at this period upon terms of particular intimacy with a sister I then had, named LEONORA; and as they seldom failed to visit each other every day, LEONORA immediately became acquainted with Donna INNES, and a confidential friendship was cemented betwixt them.

CHARMED by the graces of her new friend, LEONORA was incessantly resounding the praises of the lovely Castilian, for so she always called the daughter of Don GASPARD: "My dear brother," said she, "is not Donna INNES an amiable girl?" "The beauties of her person are only equalled by the excellencies of her mind. She is all accomplished! How happy will be the youth who becomes her husband."

THIS language, which LEONORA frequently repeated with encreasing enthusiasm, was so far from making any impression on my mind, or even exciting any violent desire to see a Lady who was so extolled by her own sex, that I ridiculed the praises she so liberally bestowed, and told her, that in all probability this object, much as she admired her, possessed a greater number of bad than good qualities. In short, the more I heard in favour of the lovely Castilian, the less desire I had to see her.

WHILST I enjoyed the pleasures of this happy indifference, although I was acquainted with many of the sex well qualified

to deprive me of it, the day appointed for the tournament arrived ; a day, more unfortunate to me than any other of my life ; and which I cannot now recollect, without a remembrance of the misfortunes that followed it.

ON entering the lists with my lance couched, waiting for the signal of combat, I cast my eyes towards a balcony, and perceived my sister in deep conversation with a young lady whose appearance instantly caught my attention, and by a certain charm, which I cannot well explain, filled me with emotion and delight. "It must be Donna INNES," said I to myself. The perturbation of my heart at that instant convinced me it was the lovely Castilian, and I felt that LOVE was now determined to revenge the inattention I had paid to the language in which LEONORA had expressed her praise.

A DESIRE to attract, by some signal exploit, the observation of a Lady who had thus touched my soul, called forth all my efforts, and enabled me to gain the highest honours of the day. My sister, whose

whose heart beat in unison with my own at the acclamations of applause which the spectators bestowed on me, was careful to heighten the admiration of her fair companion, by informing her who I was. The lovely Castilian, in politeness to her friend, appeared to partake of her joy, and congratulated her on having such a brother.

THE tournament being finished, I sought the earliest opportunity to enquire of LEONORA the name of her companion. "It is Donna INNES," replied she. "Well, Don FELIX, what do you say now you have seen her? For, short as the time was which you had to contemplate her person, you must have been struck with its beauty."

"I CONFESS," replied I, "the radiance of her charms has dazzled me, or rather made me feel the whole force of their power. Alas! while I was applauded in the lists as a conqueror, I was conquered."

"My dear brother," replied LEONORA, "I am not surprised that Donna INNÉS has inspired your heart with love, and
"the

“ the friendship which unites Donna INNES’s
“ heart to LEONORA’s encourages my hope
“ of being able to serve you.” I profited so
much by these tender offers of assistance,
that my sister undertook to convey a letter
to the lovely Castilian, in which I declared
my passion in the warmest terms.

I CONCLUDED, from the reliance which I
placed upon the ability of my mediatress,
and the good opinion which a young man
naturally indulges of his own merit, that
my billet would be favourably received;
and my expectation was not disappointed.

“ DON FELIX,” said my sister to me a
few days after, “ I have joyful tidings to
“ announce to you : the Lady refused for
“ some time to open your letter; but I spoke
“ so warmly in your favour, that at length
“ she not only complied, but, expressing a
“ high esteem for your merits, consent-
“ ed that you shall solicit her in marriage
“ of her father when he returns from Biscay,
“ where he is at present gone on business
“ which may detain him two or three
“ months. In the mean time she has no
“ objection to receive your addresses, pro-
“ vided

“ vided they can be managed with secrecy ;
“ the care of her reputation obliging her,
“ as she observes, to conduct herself cau-
“ tiously during his absence : she therefore
“ prohibits you from serenading her with
“ the sound of flutes, guitars, and, in one
“ word, from every species of clamorous
“ gallantry. This prohibition is, I ac-
“ knowledge, extremely mortifying to a
“ Spanish lover ; but, in lieu of these plea-
“ sures, you are permitted to write to her,
“ and may flatter yourself with the hope
“ of receiving answers.”

THE transports of joy with which this conversation inspired me convinced LEONORA of the violence of my passion ; and her affection for me was such, that I think the idea she entertained of my approaching felicity rendered her joy equal to my own. The good offices of a sister, to whom my interests were so dear, was of infinite advantage. I enjoyed with the lovely Castilian, during a period of two months, not only a literary correspondence, but, by means of a grated window which looked into a solitary court at the back of her aunt's house,

house, was frequently admitted to a nocturnal interview. Every thing succeeded according to my wishes, and I entertained the highest hopes of happiness; but while LOVE brightened my days, my evil Genius was laying snares to make me miserable.

DON GASPARD, on his return from BISCAY, intimated his intention of returning with his daughter to BURGOS; and while I felt, on this occasion, all the alarm of a lover fearful of losing the object of his affection, Donna INNES appeared equally afflicted by this omen of separation. Happily however for me, Donna JUANNA, who adored her niece, would not consent to her departure; and her father, not daring to displease a relation whose wealth he expected his children would inherit, at length consented to leave her behind. But no sooner were my apprehensions upon this occasion quieted, than a new danger of a similar kind occurred.

ONE day, while LEONORA with a number of other Ladies were visiting Donna JUANNA, a messenger arrived and delivered a letter to Donna INNES, who retired

to the alcove and opened it. My sister, whose eyes were attentively fixed upon her while she was reading the letter, observed in her countenance uncommon marks of joy, and that every word it contained affected her with pleasure : she also observed, that when Donna INNES had read the letter, she called her servant and whispered something softly in her ear ; and that the servant, in a tone of voice sufficiently loud to be overheard, advised her to follow her inclination.

ON these circumstances being mentioned to me by my sister, we endeavoured to divine the possible meaning of these significant gestures and expressions ; and after a variety of conjectures, by no means favorable to my happiness, we concluded that the letter came from a rival, whose addresses she was disposed to encourage. We accordingly resolved upon certain measures to discover who the person was that had thus presumptuously dared to dispute with me this lovely prize.

APPLYING to THEODORA, the confidential servant of my charmer, we drew from her, by means of presents, a candid

did confession, that her mistress was beloved by Don MARTIN DE TREVIGNO, one of the richest Gentlemen of BISCAY, and that they frequently corresponded with each other. "And to convince you of the truth of what I say," continued the *faithful* girl, "I will shew you her answer to the very letter she has just received from your rival; for all her dispatches pass through my hands in their way to the messenger."

THEODORA instantly performed her promise; and the following is a copy of the letter which Donna INNES had written to her Biscayan Lover.

"I rejoice to find that you have obtained the title of Knight of the Order of St. James, which you so ardently desired, and which has so long deprived me of the pleasure of seeing the only object of my tender affection. Doubt not that I shall be highly pleased with the speedy return with which you flatter me; but remember that I forbid you to visit PAMPELUNA. I have particular reasons for this prohibition. Go to BURGOS, and exert your utmost endeavours
"to

“ to persuade my father to send for me home,
“ in defiance of my aunt’s reluctance to part
“ with me. I confess she makes me purchase
“ my expectation of becoming her heiress at a
“ high price. — Adieu ; and may I find, on
“ my return, your affection equal to the tender-
“ ness and fidelity of

“ D. INNES.”

My sensations on reading a letter which so explicitly informed me of the perfidy of Donna INNES no language can express. I had great occasion for the wise counsel of my amiable sister to prevent the total distraction of my mind ; and her prudent advice brought me so completely to my senses, that instead of abandoning myself to my fury, and overwhelming the coquette with vain reproaches, I determined to dissemble. LEONORA also followed my example with so much adroitness, that Donna INNES, not suspecting we were acquainted with her perfidy, continued as usual her seeming confidence ; each of us striving who should best conceal their real sentiments. I even prevailed on myself to continue my
correspondence

correspondence with this faithless fair one in the warmest language of Love, and she continued to answer my letters in even warmer expressions than my own.

WHILE we were living thus cordially with each other, Don GASPARD arrived at PAMPELUNA, to reconduct his daughter to BURGOS, to which place Don MARTIN had then returned. But Donna JUANNA still opposed; and, notwithstanding all the reasons which her brother offered to her, absolutely refused to consent to the departure of her niece. Don GASPARD, not daring to thwart the inclination of a sister who was likely to take revenge in her last will, not only quitted the contest, but consented to relinquish his residence at BURGOS and to live entirely with his sister at PAMPELUNA. The perfidious niece would willingly have sacrificed the tender attachment of her aunt to her own tender attachment for her lover, who she foresaw would soon repair to PAMPELUNA, and render by his presence the further continuance of her double professions impracticable. Her mind, fruitful as it was in stratagems of deceit, was unequal to

to the difficulties of her situation, and she discovered a perturbation and anxiety, which nothing but a knowledge of my being acquainted with the secret of her guilt could possibly increase.

THE gay rival of my former hopes did not long disappoint her expectation, but appeared at PAMPELUNA in a splendid equipage, accompanied by a number of domestics clothed in rich liveries, and in a stile of fashion suited to the dignity of his Order and the extent of his fortune. The first time I saw him was in a church where the faithless daughter of Don GASPARD was hearing mass. I felt, without knowing why, a great agitation the moment I beheld him, or, to say more truly, I had a presentiment that he was the redoubtable rival of whom THEODORA had spoken ; but, if a doubt had existed, it would soon have been removed ; for almost immediately addressing himself to Donna INNES, with a fond and familiar air, she received him, notwithstanding she perceived that I observed them, in a manner which wounded me with jealousy. Instead of restraining herself to

to spare me the mortification of seeing her bestow her attention upon another, she lavished upon him the sweetest looks, and pierced my heart by the testimonies she gave him of her love.

ON quitting the Church, he accompanied her to the door of her aunt's house, which he entered like a man who had obtained the permission of Don GASPARD, whilst I, filled with rage and despair, returned to my apartment, and surrendered myself to the severest torments of wounded pride.

THIS artful deceiver, however, having rightly conjectured that I should not bear the favorable reception she had bestowed upon the Knight with perfect tranquillity, took the trouble to write me a billet in the evening, signifying that the person I had seen at Church need not afford me the least alarm; that he was an intimate acquaintance of her father's; and that as such she could not well avoid returning his polite attentions to her; but that her behaviour was the effect of mere civility, and nothing more than good manners required, in which

the heart had no concern. She expressly declared, in short, that there was but one man in the whole world she was capable of loving, and that that man was myself.

THIS deceitful letter stung me to the soul and urged me to revenge. On the approach of evening I accordingly put on a disguise, and concealed myself in the environs of the faithless creature's house, with a determination to attack my rival whenever chance should throw him in my way. Scarcely had I approached the door before it opened, and a young Page, advancing from it towards me, asked me if my name was Signior Don MARTIN. On my telling him in a low voice that it was, he put a paper into my hands, saying that Donna INNES his mistress desired me immediately to perform the request it contained. Assuring him I would, and giving him a double pistole, with which the blundering youth returned as well contented as if he had discharged his commission without mistake, I hastily returned home, impatient to learn the contents of the billet; in which, on opening it, I read the following words :

“ Yes,

“ Yes, Don MARTIN, I will perform the
“ promise I made to you this day. To-morrow
“ at midnight I will be at the garden-gate.”

THIS information increased my fury; and you will easily conceive that, with a bosom alive only to revenge, I passed a painful night. The morning sun seemed loath to rise, and the tediousness of the succeeding day almost exhausted my patience before the appointed hour arrived. The clock struck twelve as I approached the place of assignation, where I almost instantly discovered my detested rival advancing towards the garden gate; but before he entered, "Stop, Don MARTIN," exclaimed I; "stop: It is Don FELIX DE PERALTA who thus impedes your guilty pleasures. Listen to my words; and learn that the perfidious object of your love has not only encouraged my addresses, but has avowed her passion for me in a variety of letters, which will prove, at the same time, the falsehood of her heart and the truth of my assertion. My feelings call upon me to revenge her perfidy, and to

VOL. I. o "deprive

“deprive her of the joy she might receive
“from this expected interview with you.”

My favoured rival, struck with this menacing address, replied: “This interruption, Don FELIX, is as audacious as it is
“unjust. On what right can you attempt
“to prevent my visit to a lady whose affec-
“tions I have, for more than six years,
“entirely possessed. The regard which she
“may have pretended for you, as a mere
“entertainment to herself, I disapprove of;
“for a Gentleman of your rank ought
“not to have been treated with so much
“levity; but, Sir, however you may have
“been encouraged by her behaviour,
“you must excuse me from believing that
“she has written to you. The Gentlemen of
“NAVARRÉ are celebrated for boasting of
“female favours which they have never re-
“ceived.”

“THIS assertion, Don MARTIN,” replied I, “is adding insult to injury. My
“veracity, Sir, shall not be slandered with
“impunity. You must answer immediately
“this daring affront. Come on, Sir, and
“let me teach you, that the Gentlemen of
“NAVARRÉ

“ NAVARRE are as jealous of their honour,
“ and of as high veracity, as those of
“ BISCAY.”

IN uttering these words I drew my sword: my adversary immediately followed my example. We fought on both sides for some time with equal ardour and activity; but DON MARTIN, unfortunately for him, in endeavouring to parry a thrust, acquitted himself so badly, that the point of my sword went directly through his throat, and instantly deprived him of life.

LEAVING my antagonist extended on the ground, I entered the garden, the gate of which I found half open, and met Donna INNES walking with THEODORA in expectation of her lover's arrival. “ Perjured woman,” exclaimed I, addressing her in the violence of passion, “ you can no longer deceive me; I am acquainted with your perfidy; and I have, this instant, gloriously revenged myself in the death of my rival. Oh! that you loved him a thousand times more than you do, that I might increase your misery while I announce his death; and punish you,
o 2 “ through

“through him, for deceiving me. It is
“true, I shall be obliged to fly from
“my country and my family; but I shall
“have the consolation of quitting for ever
“the presence of so detested a deceiver.”

HAVING uttered these words with all the indignation of a man who listened only to the dictates of revenge, I rushed from the garden, and left Donna INNES, who had fainted away, reclining in the arms of her attendant.

RETURNING home with all possible expedition, I awakened my father from the comforts of repose, and informed him of this disastrous event. The surprize it occasioned was great indeed; for, until that moment, he had not even heard of my partiality for Donna INNES; but when he reflected, that the event would necessarily force me to fly from the arm of justice, his affliction was more poignant than language can express. Considering, however, that it was a misfortune which could not now be avoided, he presented me with a purse filled with gold and jewels; and, mounting
me

me upon one of his fleetest horses, bid me a sorrowful adieu just as the sun was ushering in the day.

CROSSING NAVARRE, and, advancing by long stages through the Principality of CATALONIA, I proceeded without resting to BARCELONA, where I sold my horse and embarked, with all possible precipitation, on board a vessel for the Port of GENOA. The safety which Italy afforded restored my mind to its former tranquillity; and as my finances enabled me to travel, I formed a design of viewing the whole of that delightful country. After visiting whatever was curious in GENOA, I purchased a horse; and, directing my course towards Lombardy, arrived at MILAN, where I remained six months.

ON bidding my father adieu, it was agreed, that I should write to him from the several places I might reside at, under cover to one of his friends, a monk of PAMPELUNA, who delivered the letters as he received them with his own hands. By this means we reciprocally communicated intelligence to each other. This kind parent,

in one of his letters, informed me, that the daughter of Don GASPARD was so affected by the circumstances of TREVIGNO's death, that she had retired into a convent, and that a rumour prevailed, that the brother of Don MARTIN had departed from BISCAY with intention to trace me from place to place, and to avenge the death of his sister's lover. This information, although it gave me no uneasiness, induced me to take such precautions as might prevent surprize. I accordingly concealed my name, and never disclosed to any person the place of my family residence in Spain.

TIRED of the pleasures which MILAN afforded, I renewed my design of traversing Italy; and for that purpose directed my course, on horseback, towards PARMA.

TOWARDS the evening of the second day's journey, while I was deep in thought, I inadvertently quitted the road, and followed a path which conducted me into a wide country covered with wood, and intersected with thickets of bramble. Perceiving the mistake, I endeavoured to return into the
road

road I had left, by retracing the path; but, instead of repairing my fault, I found myself enveloped by a deep and dreary glen, from which the darkness of the night, which now closed fast around me, prevented my return. Compelled to remain in this situation until the break of day, I dismounted, and taking the bridle from my horse, that he might graze more conveniently, threw myself on the grass, in expectation that a sound sleep would relieve me from the fatigues of my journey and the calls of hunger; but as my wearied eyelids were about to close, I suddenly heard the distant cries of ill-omened birds, accompanied, at intervals, by the plaintive sounds of a human voice. Starting from the ground to discover, if possible, the cause of these extraordinary noises; and, walking towards the place from whence the sounds seemed to proceed, I discovered, by the favour of a feeble light, which the moon occasionally cast through the dark clouds in which it was involved, the remains of an ancient EDIFICE. It appeared like a chapel fallen into ruins, and become the melancholy

abode of bats and screech-owls. Advancing to examine it, I heard more distinctly every step I took the noises which resounded from within it. The whole glen sometimes re-echoed to the hideous cries of birds of prey, and at others I clearly discerned something like the groans and lamentations of a female, who, by some strange outrage, had been inclosed, against her will, within this place of horror.

THE desire I felt to develope this mystery induced me to enter the ruins ; but I entered them with a degree of fear and trembling, from which the most intrepid man could not, in my situation, have been free. Curiosity however supported my courage, and I walked, with a naked sword in my hand, slowly and cautiously among the scattered fragments of the edifice, until I came to a kind of tomb, from whence a voice, interrupted by sighs and groans, suddenly pronounced these words : "*O unhappy woman ! how have I deserved to suffer such cruel treatment !*" A death-like terror struck my heart on hearing these expressions ; my mind was dismayed ;

mayed; and my imagination represented it as a soul consigned to trouble.

ALARMED and agitated, however, as I was, I ventured to speak to the voice I heard; but my address was such as clearly marked the disordered state of my mind: "Immortal spirit," exclaimed I, "you, who, disengaged from corporeal restraints, expiate in this monument the crimes committed in your mortal state, say, what would you have? I am ready to do whatever you command."

"AH! traitor," replied the voice, "you are not contented with having buried me alive within this horrid grave, but you must add insult to this cruel injury: the lingering and inhuman death which waits me in this horrid sepulchre might fully satisfy your mind."

ON receiving this reply, which convinced me that I was in conversation with a living body, my apprehensions vanished.

"WHOEVER you are," said I to the afflicted female, "know that I am not the author of your misfortunes. I am a traveller, who, having lost his way, was pre-

“paring not far from hence to await the re-
“turn of morn, when I heard your com-
“plaint, and have ventured into this retreat
“to learn its cause: the fears which your eja-
“culations inspired deprived me of my senses;
“I fancied you a departed spirit; and under
“that impression exorcised you; but I am
“now undeceived; and if I shall be enabled
“to render you the least service, it will con-
“sole me for having missed my way. Lose
“no time. Come forward from this
“frightful place and follow me. I have a
“horse not far hence, and will conduct you
“wherever you shall direct.”

“OH! Sir,” replied the voice, “I can-
“not without your assistance release myself
“from this horrid dungeon, where I am
“tied with cords; my tongue, which shall
“ever hereafter pour forth my gratitude
“to Heaven for your assistance, alone is
“free.”

I ACCORDINGLY approached, and entered
the tomb, where I found a woman not only
fettered hands and feet, but, to render the
scene still more horrible, closely fastened to
the dead body of a man. The shocking
sight

fight struck terror to my soul, and I retreated involuntarily from the object.

“ GENEROUS stranger !” said the Lady,
“ separate the living from the dead : release
“ me immediately from the murdered body
“ to which I am bound ; and defeat the
“ vindictive fury of an unjustly jealous husband.”

I CONCLUDED from these last words, that the deplorable state to which this unhappy woman was reduced must be a new Italian method of punishing conjugal infidelity.

GALLANTRY, however, when called upon to aid a female in distress, is never impeded by a consideration of circumstances ; and, advancing immediately towards the unhappy sufferer, I cut the cords with which she was tied with my sword ; released her from her dead companion ; and, conducted her from the tomb through the surrounding ruins, to the spot where my horse was grazing.

THE light of day soon afterwards appeared on the horizon ; and, placing the young sufferer behind me on the horse, we followed the first track without knowing to

what place it led, and arrived in a short time at BETOLA.

THE Lady, who until this time had observed a profound silence, on viewing the village, joyfully exclaimed, "I know where we are; and the place to which I wish to go is not more than two miles distant. Go that road, if you please, Sir," added she, pointing to a path: "go that road, and we shall in less than an hour arrive at a farm-house, where you will be received by persons who will not be insensible of the services you have rendered me; for you will then restore me to the arms of my beloved parents, to a fond father, to a tender and affectionate mother. Oh! ANSELMO! Oh! DOROTHEA!" continued she, until interrupted by her tears, "unhappy authors of my existence, what will you feel? How will your kind hearts bleed with affliction when you learn the unjust and cruel treatment your daughter has received?"

THIS apostrophe was followed by such a flood of tears, that although I seriously doubted whether I had rescued from death
a vic-

a victim perfectly innocent, I could not avoid being deeply affected by her distress.

ON our arrival at the farm-house, an aged man and woman were standing at the door. It was ANSELMO and DOROTHEA. Astonished and surprised at perceiving their daughter, "Just Heaven," exclaimed the old man, "it is LUCRETIA! Why are you here without your husband? Why is he not with you?"

LUCRETIA could only answer with her tears, which flowed in all the abundance of real feeling and affliction. "Alas!" said the mother, "I am afraid that AURELIO, my son-in-law, has been guilty of some gross misconduct."

At these words the sobs and tears of LUCRETIA increased so violently, that ANSELMO, perceiving there was no probability of deriving any information from her, addressed himself to me, and requested I would relate to them, if I knew it, the cause of her affliction.

I ACCORDINGLY informed them of the situation and place in which I had found
their

their daughter, but that I was entirely ignorant of the cause which had induced her husband to use so much severity.

WHILE I was giving this detail, which they could not hear without horror, the anguish of LUCRETIA by degrees abated; and, resuming the use of her voice, she related the following story in her justification:

“AURELIO, the person to whom I was
“espoused,” said she, “is a man not only
“more jealous, but more capable of per-
“mitting his feelings to drive him into a
“violent excess, than any other native of
“Italy. Entertaining suspicion, but upon
“what appearances I am totally ignorant,
“that the youth and beauty of one of his
“domestics had attracted my attention, he
“stabbed, in a frantic moment of un-
“founded jealousy, the innocent and un-
“happy youth; and, tying our bodies to-
“gether with cords, carried us, by the as-
“sistance of persons devoted to his hu-
“mour, in that condition, to the place
“from which this generous stranger has just
“released me.”

ANSELMO

ANSELMO and DOROTHEA, who knew the character of AURELIO, and had frequently repented of having given him their daughter in marriage, were penetrated with the keenest anguish at this recital; and they joined their tears to those which still continued to flow from the eyes of LUCRETIA, who confirmed her innocence in the minds of her parents by this appeal: "If," said she, "I had the least reason to reproach myself, can you imagine that I should thus presumptuously appear before you? Oh! no; so far from daring to seek an asylum in your arms, I should have flown with horror from my paternal dwelling, and have endeavoured to hide the shame of disgracing the education you have given me in the remotest corner of the earth."

THIS affectionate couple gave credit to the asseveration of their lovely daughter, and, secretly reproaching themselves for having married her so imprudently, locked her alternately in their arms with every mark of parental tenderness and contrition.

THESE

THESE transports of fond sorrow having subsided, they bestowed upon me a thousand thanks for saving their innocent and lovely child from impending death ; and requested me to continue in the farm with them as long as I pleased : but, after passing a day with them, I enquired the nearest road to PARMA, and proceeded on my journey to a city, celebrated by its being the usual residence of the illustrious Prince its Sovereign.

BEFORE I had been three days at PARMA I was engaged in an adventure which had nearly cost me my life. Curious to learn whether the gallants of PARMA chanted the pleasures and the pains of love under the balconies of their mistresses, I walked one evening, after supper, round the city. The clock had already struck eleven without the sound of a single guitar having reached my ear ; but no sooner did the midnight hour arrive, than music of all kinds resounded through every street. A concert, seemingly in the Spanish stile of music, was performing in one of the squares, and, conceiving

ceiving it to be some young lover of my own country who was serenading the object of his affection, I advanced towards the place.

THE music, while I listened to it with pleasure, suddenly stopped; the sound of the violins was succeeded by the clashing of swords; and I soon afterwards discovered a man who was retiring in a posture of defence against three assailants who pressed upon him all together with great violence. Provoked by the inequality of the contest, I drew my sword; and, ranging myself on the side of the single combatant, who must, in the event, have fallen a victim to superior numbers, gave him such useful succour, that we obliged the assailants to retire, not without some wounds, which, in all probability, they would not have received if I had not joined the affray.

THE Gentleman, in whose favour I had thus seasonably interposed, appeared so extremely sensible of the services I had rendered him, that he knew not how to discontinue his expressions of gratitude.

“ Sir,”

“SIR,” replied I, in the Castilian language, “the services you have received do not merit such extraordinary commendation. Could I calmly observe one of my countrymen, for if I am not mistaken you are from SPAIN, in such imminent danger, without affording him assistance?”

“You are not mistaken,” replied he; “I am a native of BISCAY, and my name is Don GREGORIO DE TREVIGNO. May I request,” added he, “to be informed what province in SPAIN has the honour of your birth. I beg you will let me know to whom I am indebted for the service I have received.”

“You must excuse me, Sir,” replied I, “from gratifying your curiosity, lest you should repent of having received the obligation you express from *my* hands.”

“OH Heavens!” exclaimed the Biscayan, “can you be Don FELIX DE PERALTA.”

“YES,” replied I, “I am. It was I who killed your brother at PAMPELUNA. I am the fugitive whom you seek, and whom chance has thrown in such a man-

“ner

“ner in your way, that fortune seems to
“have rendered the succour my arm has just
“afforded you a screen of delicacy to shelter me from your vengeance. But I am
“not inclined to accept a favour so awkwardly bestowed, and I request that you
“will pay no regard to a service which I
“should have rendered to any other man
“as well as to yourself. Consult only your
“offended feelings, and vindicate your
“brother’s death.”

“Would you do so,” interrupted Don GREGORIO, “if you were in my place?
“Speak: your sentiments shall guide my
“conduct.”

“You embarrass me,” replied I; “if
“you had spilled my brother’s blood, and I
“had owed my life to you, the voice of gratitude would, I think, have silenced my
“resentment.”

“Then why,” replied he, “should I
“act in a different manner: do you conceive that my notions upon this subject
“are less refined than your own? No,
“no, Don FELIX, I know what honour
“requires from you in this conjuncture; but,
“however

“ however consanguinity may murmur, I
“ will no longer consider you as my enemy.
“ You have yourself repaired the injury
“ my family received ; since the same sword
“ which extinguished the life of Don
“ MARTIN has prolonged that of GRE-
“ GORIO. Permit me farther to assure you,
“ that your generous and gallant behaviour
“ has banished all animosity from my mind,
“ and inclined me to seek that future
“ friendship from you which on my part I
“ am sincerely disposed to bestow.”

WE accordingly interchanged addresses ; and, after mutual professions of respect and esteem, parted, under promises to visit each other early the ensuing morning ; and each of us was so eager to honour the other with the first visit, that we met on the way.

THE usual compliments having passed, Don GREGORIO desired that he might have the pleasure of introducing me to a friend of his at Court ; and, in compliance with his desire, I immediately accompanied him to the house of Count GUADAGNI, the DUKE'S favourite, and First Gentleman of his Chamber, to whom he presented me, saying,
“ Permit

“ Permit me to introduce to you Don
 “ FELIX DE PERALTA, the mortal enemy
 “ whom I fought with so much industry ;
 “ for he is now one of my best friends.”

“ WHAT miracle,” exclaimed the Count,
 “ has produced this alteration in your senti-
 “ ments ?”

DON GREGORIO then related to him the recent adventure, candidly avowing, that without my assistance he must have lost his life. The Count, having listened to this narrative with great attention, congratulated us on an event which had thus happily terminated an affair of honour, which, in general, ends in the death of one, and sometimes of both of the parties.

GUADAGNI conceived this to be so singular a circumstance, that he could not avoid communicating it to the Duke his master, who, from mere curiosity, desired to see and converse with me. The interview afforded so much pleasure to my Royal Auditor, that he resolved to detain me at the Court of PARMA; and, for that purpose, requested my acceptance of a Lieutenancy in the Guards; and as I also enjoyed the patronage

tronage and friendship of his favourite, I entertained the high hope of being able, in a short time, to amass a splendid fortune.

I COMMUNICATED my reconciliation with GREGORIO, and my advancement at the Court of PARMA, to my fond and anxious father; and it is scarcely necessary for me to say, that his congratulations on both occasions were equally joyful and sincere.

My endeavours to cultivate the friendship and good opinion of the Duke of PARMA were so successful, that in a period of less than two years I was promoted to the post of First Chamberlain, which had become vacant by GUADAGNI's death.

NATIVES never suffer a foreigner to occupy a place of so much importance at Court with any degree of quietude or security; and all the numerous individuals who conceived their merit had been overlooked or slighted by my promotion raised an envious outcry against me, and endeavoured, by all the arts of factious calumny, to degrade me from the high confidence and esteem in which I was held by my Royal Benefactor. Combinations were
formed

formed amongst the leading Courtiers to destroy my power, and they employed all the arts and stratagems ingenuity could suggest to effect their purpose; but all their exertions were fruitless, and only contributed to fix me more firmly in my exalted station; for you may conceive that it was no easy task to rob me of the favour of a Prince with whose virtues and vices I was equally well acquainted. The skilful GUADAGNI had, by means of this knowledge, constantly preserved his credit with his master; and treading with equal adroitness in the steps of my predecessor, I had, in short, discovered the secret of rendering myself so necessary to the Duke, that he no longer viewed any object except through my eyes. I am convinced that no favourite ever gained a more absolute ascendancy; so great indeed was my power, that I was called *the Coadjutor* of the States of PARMA; and the opposing Courtiers, finding themselves incapable of making successful resistance, submitted to the predominating influence of my brighter fortunes. But, alas! the authority
which

which had withstood the attacks of a powerful faction, yielded to the superior address of a Lady, for whom the Duke entertained a most extravagant affection.

THIS dangerous rival was the wife of his principal Equerry, the Marchioness of ORIGO ; who, although she had passed the meridian of life, was still not only the most striking beauty, but the most artful intriguer of the Court. From the first moment she saw the Prince within her power, she formed the resolution of removing me from his confidence, in order that she might possess the entire administration of affairs herself. Aware of her designs, I endeavoured, of course, by every means in my power, to render them abortive ; and, as is frequent between the Ministers and Mistresses of Princes, a contest commenced, in which we mutually endeavoured to ruin each other in the mind of the Duke, by every ill office in our respective powers. When I was with the Duke, I seized every occasion to degrade her in his good opinion ; and when she was with him, my character also suffered in its turn.

turn. The Prince, whose greatest foible was an excessive good nature, listened sometimes to the Marchioness, and sometimes to me, like a ship which tossed about by two opposing winds yields alternately to both.

THIS formidable rival, unfriendly as she was to my interests, was no enemy, it appeared, to the pleasures of the world: Fame did not give her credit for a more faithful attachment to the Prince her lover than to the Marquis her husband. It was against her infidelity that I directed all my batteries. Employing certain spies, whom I induced, by the liberality of my bribes, to watch her conduct with unceasing vigilance, I was at length informed that the Lady had lately fallen in love with a Comedian of the name of OCTAVIO, who generally played the principal characters at the Prince's Theatre; that not contented with admitting him almost daily to her toilette, she frequently went to his house in a hired coach, disguised as a common woman; in short, that there was no reason

to doubt but that these interviews were interviews of gallantry.

OVERJOYED as I was on receiving this information, I thought it prudent to ascertain its truth before I ventured to reap from it the harvest it seemed to promise; and with this view I sent to OCTAVIO, and requested that he would do me the favour to sup with me alone in the evening, as I had something of consequence to communicate to him.

THE Actor of course accepted the invitation, and came to me at the appointed time: "OCTAVIO," said I to him, towards the conclusion of the evening, "I have a very unpleasant piece of news to communicate to you. The Duke has been made acquainted with the partiality which the Marchioness of ORIGO has lately conceived for you, and that you frequently have secret interviews with each other."

OCTAVIO, excellent actor as he was, turned pale, and discovered great confusion at this intelligence. Without seeming to notice his disorder, I continued my discourse:—

"You

" You know, OCTAVIO, that I am your
 " friend ; I have given you more than one
 " testimony of it ; and I think I shall not
 " prove myself very unkind in giving you
 " advice upon this occasion. If I were in
 " your situation, I would throw myself at
 " the feet of the Prince, and make a candid
 " confession to him of all that has passed.
 " You are not ignorant of the goodness of
 " his disposition ; a frank and sincere
 " avowal will subdue his anger. I am sure
 " he will forgive your inability to resist the
 " advances of so fine a woman : and I will
 " not only introduce you to his Highness,
 " but will use my interest with him in your
 " favour."

THE Actor had too much good sense not
 to reject such advice from a man whom he
 well knew to be the mortal enemy of the
 Marchioness ; and concluding that my only
 reason for advising him to adopt so delicate
 a measure was to obtain proof of a fact, the
 existence of which only rested on suspicion,
 he chose to deny that he had ever been so
 presumptuous as to raise even a thought in
 favour of the Marchioness.

THE fact, however, was true, and in two days I was clearly convinced of it.

EARLY the ensuing morning, one of my spies informed me that the Marchioness was gone, in a hired carriage and in her usual disguise, to OCTAVIO's house; and that I might, if I pleased, see her return. Dressing myself immediately, and following my conductor, we concealed ourselves a few paces from the Comedian's house, from whence the Lady, whom I recognised by her gait notwithstanding her disguise, soon issued; but to make assurance doubly sure, I approached and lifted up the veil which concealed her face. At the sight of me she uttered an involuntary scream: I apologized for the liberty I had taken, by pretending that I had mistaken her for another Lady; but she ran from me without speaking a word, and, jumping into the coach, which was waiting at a short distance, disappeared in a moment.

CHARMED with the idea that I could testify, from my own view, that she had visited OCTAVIO, I ran to the Palace, with an air of triumph, to recount what I had seen; but

unfortunately the Duke was gone out, and did not return until two hours afterwards, when, observing the emotion of my countenance, "What is the matter with you?" said the Prince; "you appear agitated."

"SIR," replied I, "the character of your Highness is too dear to me, not to be affected by the base treachery which is practised against you."

"SPEAK more explicitly," interrupted the Duke. "Who is it that betrays me—What is the perfidy?"

"THE Marchioness," replied I, "is a faithless woman whom your Highness ought to abandon. Ungratefully forgetting the love with which you honour her——"

"PERALTA," interrupted the Prince, looking at me with an angry eye; "Take care what you say; for I perceive your hatred to the Marchioness discolours all her actions, and you condemn her, possibly, upon false appearances. What new crime can she have committed that you should brand her with the epithets of treacherous and ungrateful?"

“ I SHOULD be justified,” replied I, “ if
“ I were to apply a term still more odious ;
“ for she has this morning been with Oc-
“ TAVIO the Comedian, in a hired carriage,
“ under the disguise of a common woman.
“ I myself saw her issue from the Actor’s
“ house, where her depraved passion has
“ frequently before conducted her.”

“ WHAT calumny !” exclaimed the
Duke. “ Is it possible to impute to the
“ Marchioness such base notions. But,
“ happily for her, I am convinced of her
“ innocence and of your malice. I have
“ this moment returned from the company
“ of that Lady, who is so unwell that she
“ has not only been obliged to keep the
“ house the whole morning, but to be
“ bled; and the Surgeon has taken from
“ her three porringers of blood, which are
“ now standing on the table in her apart-
“ ment. What would you say, were I to
“ shew you this proof of her innocence?”

“ I SHOULD say,” replied I, “ that
“ the blood is not her own, but artfully
“ placed there to screen her guilt.”

THE

THE Duke censured my obstinacy, and, notwithstanding all I said to support my charge against the accused, seemed to impute all the blame to the accuser.

THE three porringers of blood presented a mystery which I resolved immediately to unravel; and, ordering my spies to find out the Marchioness's Surgeon and bring him instantly before me, a service which they soon performed, I told him, by way of intimidation, "The Duke commands you, on pain of perpetual imprisonment, to inform me whether you have this morning bled the Marchioness of ORIGO."

THE Surgeon turned pale at these words, and replied with a terrified aspect, "There is no occasion for menaces to induce obedience to the commands of my Sovereign. In answer to your question, I was this morning sent for to the Marchioness's house, to bleed one of her female attendants; from whose arm I took three porringers of blood, and came away."

"THEN it was not the Marchioness that you bled?" said I.

“No, Sir,” replied the Surgeon; “I did not even see her Ladyship.”

UPON the Surgeon’s report, I ventured to assure the Duke that the blood was not drawn from the vein of his mistress, and that she had artfully affected indisposition the better to conceal the fact of her having been that morning with OCTAVIO. The Duke, blinded by the violence of his passion, warmly maintained that she was incapable of such gross duplicity. “I am convinced,” said he, “that the Marchioness would disdain to resort to so mean a subterfuge; but, to satisfy myself more fully upon this subject, I am determined immediately to inspect her arm, and if I do not find a recent incision on it with the lancet, I will give entire credit to all you have told me, and abandon the perfidious coquette for ever: but PERALTA,” continued he, with a stern and menacing aspect, “if there be the appearance of a recent puncture, you may be assured that I will revenge the malicious injuries which you have inflicted, by

“by your rash aspersions, on her innocent character.”

BEING persuaded that the whole of her story to the Duke was a mere fabrication, without any support except her own assertion, I submitted cheerfully to the penalty he imposed: the Prince accordingly visited the Marchioness early in the evening, under pretence of enquiring the state of her health. Of the conversation which passed between them during this important interview I am totally ignorant; but on the ensuing day, when I presented myself before him, he received me with an air of coldness and disdain. “The Marchioness,” said he abruptly, “was bled yesterday morning: it is a fact which I can attest; for I removed the bandage from her arm, and saw, with my own eyes, the incision which the lancet had made. Trouble my repose no longer by such unfounded accusations. I had rather be deceived by a mistress than owe her fidelity merely to a vigilance on her conduct.”

CONFOUNDED and struck dumb by this peremptory declaration, I could only con-

temple with astonishment the falsehood of the Surgeon or the artifice of the Marchioness, who, I concluded, had procured a puncture to be made by some other operator. My silence, however, was interpreted by the Duke as unerring evidence of my guilt; and, considering me in the character of a lying informer, abashed by unexpected detection, turned his back upon me, and ordered the Captain of his Guards to tell me not to appear again at Court.

THE disgrace to which this sentence of exile at once consigned me afflicted me for some time with excruciating severity; and my torments were not alleviated by the reflection that I had fallen a victim to the superior artifices of a woman, whose influence it was my settled purpose to destroy: but, at length, PHILOSOPHY came kindly to my aid, and enabled me to view the high and comfortless stations of Ambition with very different sentiments; and, RELIGION also interposing its assistance, I adopted notions which, by degrees, detached my mind completely from the world and its concerns. I accordingly quitted the Court of PARMA,
and

and retired to GENOA; from whence I seized the earliest opportunity of returning to SPAIN; and, embarking on board a vessel for that purpose, reached ALICANT, where I purchased a horse and proceeded towards PAMPELUNA; but, like you, missing my road, I arrived towards evening at this Hermitage, the door of which was opened at my request, and I was received by a venerable old Man, who, though eighty years of age, was still able to walk without a stick, and enjoyed the most perfect health. This hospitable inhabitant treated me in the same manner as I have treated you; and the conversations which he held with me perfected my resolution to renounce all future conversation with the world. To conclude my story in a few words, I implored the old Man to permit me to continue with him in the enjoyment of this solitary retreat: he granted my request; and I have resided from that moment in this Hermitage, occupied only by the hopes of Heaven. I did not even visit PAMPELUNA: the pleasure of seeing my father and my sister was the first sacrifice I made to God. I passed

ten years with the virtuous Hermit in this humble cell, and ten more have now elapsed since his decease.

THE RECLUSE here concluded his narrative; and, returning him thanks for his civility, I told him, with perhaps a smile on my countenance, that I was tempted to follow his example.

“You are yet too young,” said he, “to embrace a mode of life which requires that its votaries should be satiated with the pleasures of the world, and be thoroughly satisfied of its vanities and vexations, in order to quit it with propriety. It is the want of this knowledge that fills the cloister with so many unworthy inmates.”

CHAP.

CHAPTER THE TWENTY-SEVENTH.

VANILLO takes his Leave of THE HERMIT; and proceeds to SARAGOSSA; from whence he returns to RODENAS with good News for Don CHRISTOVAL. The Consequence of this News.

RISING the ensuing morning before the break of day, and bidding adieu to my Host, with repeated thanks for the kind reception he had afforded me, I mounted my horse and jogged on towards SARAGOSSA, where I arrived before noon.

THE Governor and his daughter were conversing in the parlour, with the Bishop of SALAMANCA, when I entered the room; but the moment they perceived me, they all rose from their seats; and, crowding round me, asked me a thousand questions at the same time:—"How is my son-in-law's

“law’s health? — What news from my
“nephew? — In what situation have you
“left my husband?”

“My Lords and my Lady,” replied I,
“I have left my master in perfect health;
“and as to the treatment he receives from
“his Grace of ALBARAZIN, here are letters
“which will afford you ample information.”
I accordingly drew my papers from my
pocket, and delivered to each of them the
respective dispatch.

I EXPECTED that the very long accounts
which DON CHRISTOVAL had given of the
several instances of friendship and respect
he received at ROBENAS would have satis-
fied their curiosity; but I was mistaken; for
they had no sooner read their letters than
they began a new course of interrogatories,
and obliged me to relate the most minute
particulars, not only of our voyage, but even
of the Bishop’s Castle. The performance
of these tasks afforded me but little respite;
for dinner was no sooner over than DONNA
ANNA, wishing to make some more parti-
cular enquiries, desired me to wait on her.

“WELL,

“ WELL, GONZALES,” said she, “ if you
 “ have given us, as I have no doubt you
 “ have, a faithful report, your master must
 “ be extremely well satisfied with so de-
 “ lightful a place, where every person seems
 “ so anxious to make him happy. The assist-
 “ ance he derives from the delights of
 “ RODENAS enables him, I conceive, to
 “ endure my absence with tolerable pa-
 “ tience.”

“ OH, Madam !” replied I, “ entertain
 “ a more favourable opinion of the power
 “ of your charms, and render more justice
 “ to the sentiments of a husband who adores
 “ you : it is not easy for any amusement
 “ to banish a lady of your merit and beauty
 “ from his mind ; he is for ever invoking
 “ his charming lovely Donna ANNA, who
 “ seems to accompany all his thoughts, and
 “ mix in all his expressions. “ VANILLO,”
 “ said he to me as I was coming away,
 “ Oh, VANILLO ! How I envy you the hap-
 “ piness of seeing my charming Donna
 “ ANNA, from whom Heaven in its wrath
 “ thus cruelly separates me !”

I had, however, observed, that VANILLO, and ANNA, were not
 A.CE-

DOÑA CELESTIAL smile beamed from the features of DONNA ANNA while I uttered these words. “VANILLO,” said she, with a soft and tender air, “tell me honestly, “don’t deceive me, does DON CHRISTOVAL really find the days of our separation tedious and unpleasant?”

“THE days, Madam!” exclaimed I, “ah! rather say the moments: he would sink under the pangs of absence if Heaven did not enable him to endure it.”

I must confess, however, that I did gild the pill a little; for, although DON CHRISTOVAL was certainly extremely fond of his wife, he was in no actual danger of dying with grief on account of her absence.

DONNA ANNA then informed me, that she entertained the most flattering prospects of her husband’s speedy return; for that her father had already had two conferences with the relations of the deceased DON MELCHIOR, in which they candidly confessed that he had been the sole aggressor, and seemed well disposed to accommodation. The Bishop, in short, managed so well, that the matter was immediately concluded, and I

was dispatched to bear the glad tidings to the Castle of RODENAS.

THIS accommodation procured to Don CHRISTOVAL too many advantages to permit him to stay any longer at the Castle; and accordingly, taking leave of the good Prelate with every testimony of gratitude, he returned gaily to SARAGOSSA; where a charming wife, equally loving and beloved, awaited his return.

ON the arrival of Don CHRISTOVAL at SARAGOSSA, joy and gladness animated every bosom; the hymeneal entertainments were renewed; and the young couple at length tasted, in undisturbed tranquillity, the sweet enjoyments of honourable love.

A PERIOD of two months was consumed in balls, concerts, and other amusements, when his Grace of SALAMANCA returned with his nephew and niece to his Diocese. Crossing, by short journeys, OLD CASTILE, we stopped at the Castle of RODELIANA, a Palace belonging to the Bishop, situated on the confines of the Province of LEON, where we continued for three weeks to receive the visits of the neighbouring Nobility
and

and Gentry; and, as his Grace was celebrated for his hospitality and polite attention to every description of visitors, the meanest HIDALGOS came every day to his table, and, presenting themselves boldly to his Grace, with high feathers in their caps and long swords by their sides, were received in a way not likely to decrease their vanity. At length we returned to SALAMANCA, and took up our abode in the Episcopal Palace.

CHAP.

CHAPTER THE TWENTY-EIGHTH.

The Conduct of VANILLO on his Return to SALAMANCA ; the important Service he rendered his Friend VANEGAS ; and by what Accident he received Intelligence of Signiora DALFA and the Jilt BERNARDINA.

A PREDICTION, on being discharged from my former service, that I should again return to SALAMANCA in the course of six or seven years, in a better situation than before, would have been ridiculed ; although, as it happened, it would certainly have been true.

I was now Secretary to a young Nobleman who esteemed me, and Commensal to an Episcopal Palace upon other terms than before ; for I no longer dined with the liveried tribe, but, like the Almoners, Equerries, Gentlemen, and Valet-de-Chambres,

Chambres, had my own cover at the Major-Domo's table, which was served as plentifully at least as that of his Grace.

VANEGAS, whom I found precisely in the same situation in which I had left him, that is to say, a Chorister of the Cathedral, was the first person I went to see. Having cordially embraced each other, he cast his eyes upon my dress, which was both neat and fashionable; and observing my long sword, silk stockings, fine ruffles, and feathered beaver, stared at me with extreme surprise, and congratulated me, poor soul! on the great fortune I must have made since he last saw me. But I soon undeceived him by relating to him the particulars of my Italian expedition, and informed him of my present re-establishment in the Bishop's family; on which he rejoiced with unaffected cordiality. "Courage, my good friend," cried he; "I perceive, however, you are in the road of advancement: you have wisely embarked your fortunes in the service of Don CHRISTOVAL, who is as liberal as he is accomplished, and will certainly remunerate your attachment."

ment.

"ment. I am delighted to find that fortune
 "favours you so highly."

"But as to yourself, VANEGAS," said I,
 "do you always intend to continue a Cho-
 "rister? An Ecclesiastic of your merit
 "might fairly expect promotion. Have
 "you never made any application for a
 "higher situation in the Cathedral?"

"NEVER," replied VANEGAS. "Priests
 "in general spend their whole lives in
 "hunting after benefices, which, when ob-
 "tained, only excite new desires for fur-
 "ther promotion; but, thank Heaven! I
 "am neither avaricious nor ambitious; and
 "being contented with my present situation,
 "bad as it is, have never used the least
 "endeavour to procure a better. I can,
 "indeed, say still more; for there is a Stall
 "in our Chapter now vacant by the death
 "of the Licenciado BAPTISTE LEON, and
 "I might with justice aspire to succeed
 "him; but, as I must necessarily undergo
 "the pain of soliciting friends to apply to
 "the Bishop in my favour, and pursue mea-
 "sures which do not perfectly coincide
 "with my temper and disposition, I chuse
 "rather

“ rather to decline the contest with a good
“ grace than undertake a trouble which
“ may probably end in disappointment.
“ Besides, I have enough to maintain me
“ with decency, and that is all a virtuous
“ Divine ought ever to require.”

THE humble views and mild character of my good old friend quite charmed me; and, while I openly applauded his noble sentiments, I felt the warmest inclination to promote his interests; but, as I could have no right to expect much influence with his Grace, I was perfectly silent on the subject to him, though I resolved not to neglect any means in my power to serve a friend who was so dear to my heart. I accordingly applied immediately to Don CHRISTOVAL; and, informing him of the vacancy, requested he would prevail upon the Bishop his uncle to appoint my worthy friend, to whom, I assured him, I was under the greatest obligations.

“ THE disposition which you shew, VA-
“ NILLO, to serve your friend affords me
“ the highest pleasure,” replied Don CHRIS-
TOVAL. “ Friendship is a sacred duty,
“ which

“ which men in all ranks of life ought care-
 “ fully to perform, and therefore I will
 “ certainly make the application you desire ;
 “ but,” continued he, “ why do you not
 “ rather make this request to my uncle
 “ yourself ? I am sure he will be pleased to
 “ grant it to you. I know he entertains a
 “ great regard for you. Go, go to him, VA-
 “ NILLO ; you will have no occasion, I am
 “ certain, for my assistance upon this oc-
 “ casion.”

THE Prelate and I were in truth upon
 excellent terms with each other. Being
 entertained by the gaiety of my answers, he
 never failed to converse with me whenever
 we met. The good man indeed was not
 one of those fastidious Gentlemen, whom
 nothing can divert but pointed sayings and
 seasoned repartees. A risible blunder, or
 any joke which tended to raise an innocent
 laugh, was more acceptable to him than
 the finest points in Martial's Epigrams.

EARLY one morning, while he was alone
 in his study, I ventured to wait upon him
 and request the vacant Prebend. “ How,
 “ VANILLO !” exclaimed the Bishop, smiling,
 “ are

“are you inclined to become a member of
“the Church? Can you perform the la-
“borious duty of a Canon?”

“WHY not, Sir?” replied I. “I can say
“my breviary, and eat my four meals a
“day, as well as any man.”

“YES,” replied his Grace; “and it
“seems that your *modesty* is equal to your
“*sobriety*.”

“NEARLY so, my Lord,” replied I, “and
“my *learning* also in proportion; and there-
“fore your Grace perceives I am not un-
“qualified to fill a Stall in your Cathedral.”

“WHY it does seem, indeed,” replied
his Grace, laughing aloud, “that I cannot,
“without doing great injustice to your
“merit, refuse your request. But tell me,
“VANILLO,” continued he, resuming a
serious air, “for whom is it that you so-
“licit so earnestly this vacant Stall? Does
“your Candidate really deserve to possess
“it. You should be very certain upon this
“point; for you will recollect, that by pro-
“curing Church preferment for a friend,
“you thereby become, in a certain degree,
“responsible for his virtue.”

“OH !

“OH! Sir,” replied I, “the Ecclesiastic in whose favour I am applying does not want sureties.”

“Who is this virtuous character?” said the Bishop; “for there are but few of this description in my Cathedral.”

No sooner however did I mention the name of the Chorister VANEGAS, than the Prelate replied with an air of satisfaction, “You are right, VANILLO; he is indeed a proper person. You could not name another man I should so well approve of. He is an honest man; of correct manners and noble sentiments; and I wish all my Choristers were half as wise as he is.”

RETURNING my very humble thanks to the Reverend Prelate for having granted me this favour, I carried the glad tidings immediately to my friend; who, on perceiving my emotion, exclaimed with alarm, as I entered his apartment, “Good God, VANILLO, what is the matter with you? What does this violent agitation import?”

“It imports,” exclaimed I, “that you are appointed to succeed the Licentiate

“BAPTISTA LEON. The Bishop has, at my
 “request, conferred on you the vacant
 “prebend; and I seize with eager joy this
 “opportunity to convince you that I can
 “never forget the kind offices you have ren-
 “dered me.”

THE modest Chorister, less delighted with a promotion which rendered him easy and independent for life, than with the feelings of gratitude which had procured it him, burst into tears of joy, and clasping me with rapture in his arms, expressed sentiments which made me feel, with exquisite sensibility, that there is no pleasure equal to that which results from serving a real friend.

As I was returning from this interesting scene, I accidentally met with that ingenious scholar Don RAMIREZ DE PRADO, the man who, while we lodged together in friendly intercourse at the house of Doctor CANIZARES, taught me wit by easing me of my money. Recollecting each other at the same instant, “What
 “pleasure I feel,” cried he, “in meeting
 “with Signior VANILLO GONZALES, my
 “old companion and my worthy friend,
 “after

“after a separation of six years. From
“whence do you come?—What have you
“been doing since the day you vanished
“so suddenly from the University?”

“I HAVE been travelling for some years
“in Italy,” said I.

“AND I,” said he, “have been at Madrid,
“where I should have remained at this
“moment, if the death of my father, and my
“anxiety to possess myself of his fortune,
“had not recalled me to this country,
“which you know is the place of my birth.”

He was in fact an *Hidalgo* of CORITA, a
populous town about three-and-twenty
miles from SALAMANCA.

DON RAMIREZ, of whom I enquired after
Signiora DALFA and her niece BERNAR-
DINA, informed me that although he had
not seen them lately, he was not ignorant
of their present situation. “The aunt,”
said he, “resides at TOLEDO, and kindly
“assists the Governor of CASTILE to consume
“the emoluments of his office; while her
“niece riots at MADRID, where she is sup-
“ported by Count MEDALLIN, in the highest
“style of fashionable folly and extravagance.”

“THESE good Ladies,” said I, “had no
“lovers in this style when I lavished on
“them my pistoles: but women of intrigue
“frequently end where they ought to have
“begun. It seems however as if these
“Gentlemen were fonder of *the bran* than
“*the meat.*”

DON RAMIREZ, after this conversation, informed me that he was obliged to return almost immediately to MADRID; but that he certainly would not go away without seeing me again.

THE promise was voluntarily made; but whether he really forgot it, or had reasons for not calling, his promise was never performed.

CHAPTER THE TWENTY-NINTH.

The melancholy Accident which happened three Months afterwards at the Episcopal Palace; the Revolution it produced; and the Course which VANILLO steered by the Advice of VANEGAS.

THE mode of life we enjoyed in the Episcopal Palace was the happiest imaginable; for, what is very extraordinary in a Nobleman's house, where envy and malice generally prevail, no faction or animosity whatever existed. But while time flowed on in uninterrupted felicity, a melancholy event took place, which spread dismay and consternation through every department in the Palace. The Bishop became dangerously ill; and his doctors, who at first assured us, that notwithstanding his advanced age the disorder was not likely to be fatal, dispatched him, in defiance of their own prognostics,

with such prompt dexterity, that he had not even time to make his will.

THIS circumstance caused great affliction, particularly to those domestics whose long services fairly entitled them to extraordinary recompence; but Don CHRISTOVAL, finding himself the Bishop's sole heir, generously dried up their tears, by promising to allow them pensions according to their deserts. Unfortunately for them, however, Don CHRISTOVAL was not allowed time to perform his promise; for only a few days after he had attended his uncle to the grave, he was thrown from his horse while he was hunting, and received a contusion, of which he died in two hours after his fall. The young widow indeed remembered and rewarded their faithful services, but it was by presents of such moderate value, as was scarcely sufficient to raise a sense of gratitude in their hearts. As for myself, the loss of my dear master affected my mind to such a degree, that in the excess of my grief I was tempted to immure myself in the great convent of Franciscan Friars for the remainder of my life. Happily
my

my friend VANEGAS, whom I consulted upon this extraordinary measure, convinced me, without much eloquence, that the cloister was not my element, and prevented me from executing this rash design. “ I am well acquainted with your character,” said he : “ you are by nature light and volatile ; you would scarce have entered your noviciate before you would be disgusted with monastic life ; and I am sure the examples of the monks would not be sufficiently powerful to turn your discontent into a vocation. Let me rather advise you,” added he, “ to go to MURCIA, and visit your relations, particularly your uncle DAMIEN CARNICERO, the protector of your infancy. From what you have related to me concerning him, it seems probable that he may have amassed by this time considerable wealth, and perhaps you will not have long to wait before you enjoy the rich inheritance. Suppose even that he should be dead, you being, as you have assured me, his heir, you will be the better able to call to an

Q 4 “ account

“account those relations who have possessed themselves of his property.”

As the Prebend's advice coincided with my own sentiments on this subject, I resolved to follow it; and bidding him adieu, departed from SALAMANCA, and arrived, by the assistance of the muleteers, at MADRID; from whence pursuing, by the same means, the road to CUENCA, I reached, in eight days afterwards, the city of MURCIA, which I could not behold again without emotions of the highest pleasure.

CONCEIVING it would be prudent to make some enquiries respecting my uncle's situation before I ventured to his house, I alighted at the first hotel, where, without making myself known, I entered into a long conversation with the host, who appeared to be the very man who could best inform me of every thing it was necessary I should know. “Pray,” said I, “is DAMIEN CARNICERO still alive, and does he still continue Principal Surgeon to the City Hospital?”

“He may be said to be still alive,” replied the host, “if you can call an old
“man,

“man, who is paralytic in every limb, a
“living animal. He has long been unable
“to follow his profession, and is condemned
“to pass his expiring days either in his bed
“or his arm chair.”

“Is he supposed to be rich?” said I.

“RICH as a Jew,” replied the host;
“and truly it would be wonderful if he
“were not, after having practised surgery
“with success so many years; for this is
“now a very lucrative profession, and CAR-
“NICERO, being both a *miser* and a *quack*,
“contrived to turn both his money and
“his trade to greater advantage than any
“other man. But I pity the poor devil
“for having given himself so much trou-
“ble to amass wealth, when he has no
“children to enjoy it; his only heirs are a
“nephew and a niece, who left MURCIA
“about twelve or fifteen years ago, and
“have not since been heard of. — The
“Members of the Hospital however may
“possibly be benefited by their absence.”

THIS conversation convinced me that my
visit to MURCIA was not a bad speculation;
and in order to prevent the Members of

the Hospital from profiting by my absence, I went early on the ensuing morning to the mansion of my dying uncle, who was now confined entirely to his bed, on one side of which sat, in close conference, a venerable looking Monk of the order of St. DOMINIC, and on the other a celebrated Doctor of Physic; the first to render all possible benefit to—his Convent, and the last to increase the quantity of his fees.

THE old man recollected me the moment he cast his eyes upon me. “By St. COMA-
“and by St. DAMIEN,” cried he, “here
“is my nephew VANILLO, whom I never
“expected to see again.”

APPROACHING the bed, and embracing him with a mingled transport of interest and affection, *half fig, half raisin*, I endeavoured to testify that I felt extreme pain to find him in so dangerous a condition; but he cut me short, by saying, in a tone of stoicism,
“Do not let us talk upon that subject, my
“nephew; we must all, sooner or later,
“end our days. Seventy-two long years
“have the Fates spun out my life, and it
“is now quite time that their shears should
“cut

"cut the thread." Having pronounced these words, he expressed a desire to converse with me in private. The Doctor and the Divine accordingly withdrew; the countenance of the last, as it appeared to me, betraying strong symptoms of mortification at the unexpected arrival of an immediate heir.

CHAPTER THE THIRTIETH.

The private Conversation which Master DAMIEN CARNICERO had with his Nephew.

MY uncle perceiving we were alone,
 “ Well, VANILLO,” said he, “ you
 “ are once more in the house where you
 “ were reared. Tell me, my boy, from
 “ whence did you come. Give me an ac-
 “ count of what you have been doing since
 “ you quitted me. Recollecting your aver-
 “ sion to surgery, I conclude you have
 “ embraced some other profession ; and it
 “ affords me great pleasure to perceive that
 “ you do not return to your family in the
 “ habit of the Prodigal Son ; for if ap-
 “ pearances may be relied on, Fortune has
 “ not been unfriendly to you.”

“ No, thank Heaven,” replied I, “ for-
 “ tune, which has always favoured me, has
 “ placed me in a situation with which I
 “ am perfectly contented, and from which
 “ nothing

“ nothing but the desire I felt of seeing you
“ could have induced me to return. The
“ ties of consanguinity and gratitude have
“ impelled me to abandon the Court of the
“ Duke of OSSUNA, Viceroy of NAPLES,
“ to enjoy the felicity of living at MURCIA
“ with an uncle to whom I am under so
“ many obligations.”

“ WHY,” said Master DAMIEN, “ what
“ employment then had you at the Court.”

“ I WAS formerly the Duke’s Page,”
replied I, “ and am now one of his Equer-
“ ries. His Excellency, to whom I applied
“ for permission to return to SPAIN for the
“ purpose of seeing you, commended my
“ pious resolution, and granted me a leave
“ of absence accordingly.”

I shall leave the reader to judge, from
this example of my veracity, how steadily
I adhered to the truth when I afterwards
related to this good man the whole history
of my past life. I never indeed adhered
to it, except when it did me some ho-
nour, which I confess was not very fre-
quent, but detailed falsehood after false-
hood, just as it seemed best to answer the pur-
pose

pose of the moment. Anxious, in short, to appear a man of probity in the opinion of my good uncle DAMIEN, or, in other words, to make myself more sure of his fortune, I did not scruple to fortify and adorn my story by mixing falsehood with fact; and it produced an admirable effect.

“ You are welcome home, my dear
“ VANILLO,” replied my uncle, when I
had finished my romance; “ the candid
“ and ingenuous manner in which you have
“ related your voyage to ITALY, convinces
“ me that you are not deficient in moral
“ sentiment; and I rejoice more particu-
“ larly at your return, because, not know-
“ ing what was become of you, I was about
“ to bequeath all my property to the Holy
“ Fathers of the Convent of St. DOMINIC
“ and the Members of the Hospital. Yes,
“ my dear child, I was upon the very eve
“ of piously committing this injustice; but
“ thanks to Heaven, who without doubt
“ has sent you here to prevent it, you are
“ returned to your family, and there is no
“ longer any danger of the riches you have
“ so just a right to being carried away by
“ the hands of strangers.”

CONVINCED by this discourse that I had had a very narrow escape, I seized the palsied hand of my dying uncle, and, kissing it with an air of tenderness and gratitude, thanked him for his kind intention. A testator, however strongly he may be prejudiced against his heir, must always become the dupe, if the heir is well versed in dissimulation. The good man entertained no doubt of my affection; my professions of sorrow even touched his heart. "VANILLO," continued he, "it is therefore my intention
" to leave you all the wealth which I have
" gained in MURCIA; but you alone shall
" enjoy it. I will not give a *marvedis* to your
" sister INESILLA, who had scarcely attained
" her fourteenth year when she eloped with
" a young Officer in the Guards to CATA-
" LONIA, and has not since been heard
" of: but I have no doubt she is living, to
" the shame of herself and the dishonour
" of her family, in a state of concubinage.
" She is so far from being intitled to share
" any part of my fortune, that she does not
" even deserve to be remembered."

THUS

THUS spoke her good uncle; and I confess that, like a good brother, I was so far from attempting to defend my sister's character, that I affected great indignation at her base and unworthy conduct; and the old Gentleman a few days afterwards sealed, signed, and delivered, his last will; in which no mention whatever was made even of the name of this unfortunate girl: I was appointed his whole and sole legatee.

THE only favour which my kind uncle could now add to his bounty was to die; and he soon afterwards conferred this last kindness on me, and thereby enabled me, while he was passing into the other world, to take possession of his effects in this. The property, which amounted to nearly twenty thousand ducats, had been fairly and legally acquired by grilling people out of their complaints; for the reader will scarcely forget the mode which this able operator followed, and the anodyne manner by which he cured the megraine and dropfy.

PERCEIVING myself so well provided for, I experienced the ordinary effect of riches.

riches. I became as proud as a priest, and like the GRIPUS of PLAUTUS, when he found a treasure, renounced philosophy, and thought only of the means of pleasure. "VANILLO," said I to myself, "you are now in opulence, and what the world calls a happy man. You may now assume the deportment of a Gentleman. Thrice happy are young men of your disposition, whose fathers or uncles draw blood or drink water all their lives to leave them wherewith to enjoy themselves. Let me honour such parents and relations, rather than those who devour their fortunes, to the disappointment of their heirs. Since you possess wealth, it will be no longer necessary to have masters. Throw off the yoke of servitude, and make a brilliant figure in the world."

It will be unnecessary, I conjecture, to tell my friendly readers that I resolved so to do; and having disposed of my real estates, and converted my dirty acres into shining pistoles and brilliant doubloons, I quitted MURCIA, attended by my suite; which consisted

consisted of a valet, mounted, like myself, on a handsome mule, and a *mule driver*, who had the care of a third mule, loaded with a large MAIL, in which my riches were inclosed,

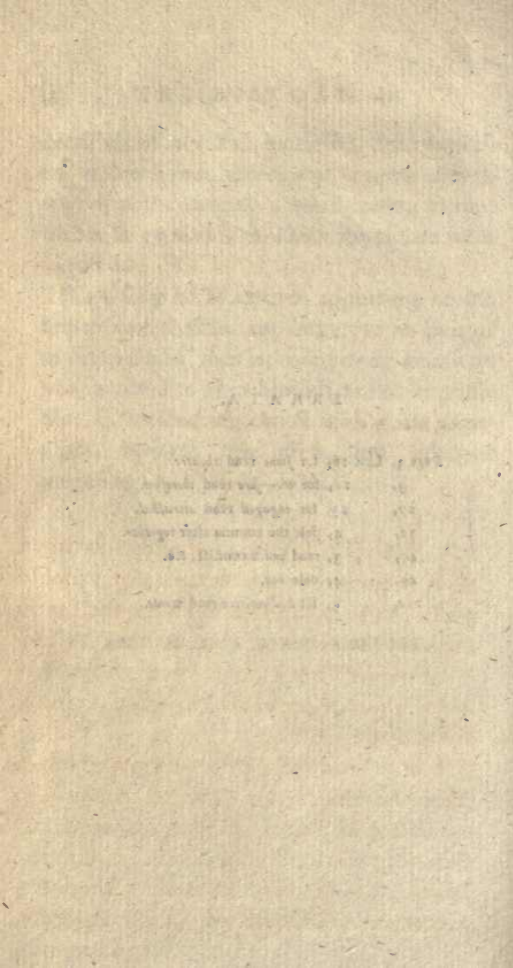
THE City of MADRID appearing to me better suited than any other to an heir of my disposition, that is, to a young man who was inclined to ruin himself as fast as possible, I directed my course with great expedition towards that great and splendid METROPOLIS.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

ERRATA.

Page 3, Line 16, for *scene* read *theatre*.

- | | |
|------|---|
| 3, | 22, for <i>tre—fore</i> read <i>therefore</i> . |
| 27, | 23, for <i>engaged</i> read <i>attracted</i> . |
| 31, | 4, dele the comma after <i>together</i> . |
| 49, | 3, read <i>and</i> a conflict, &c. |
| 49, | 4, dele <i>but</i> . |
| 211, | 9, for <i>bad written</i> read <i>wrote</i> . |









58 00987 1921

PQ
1997
H6E5
1797
v.1

UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY



A 000 006 381 8

